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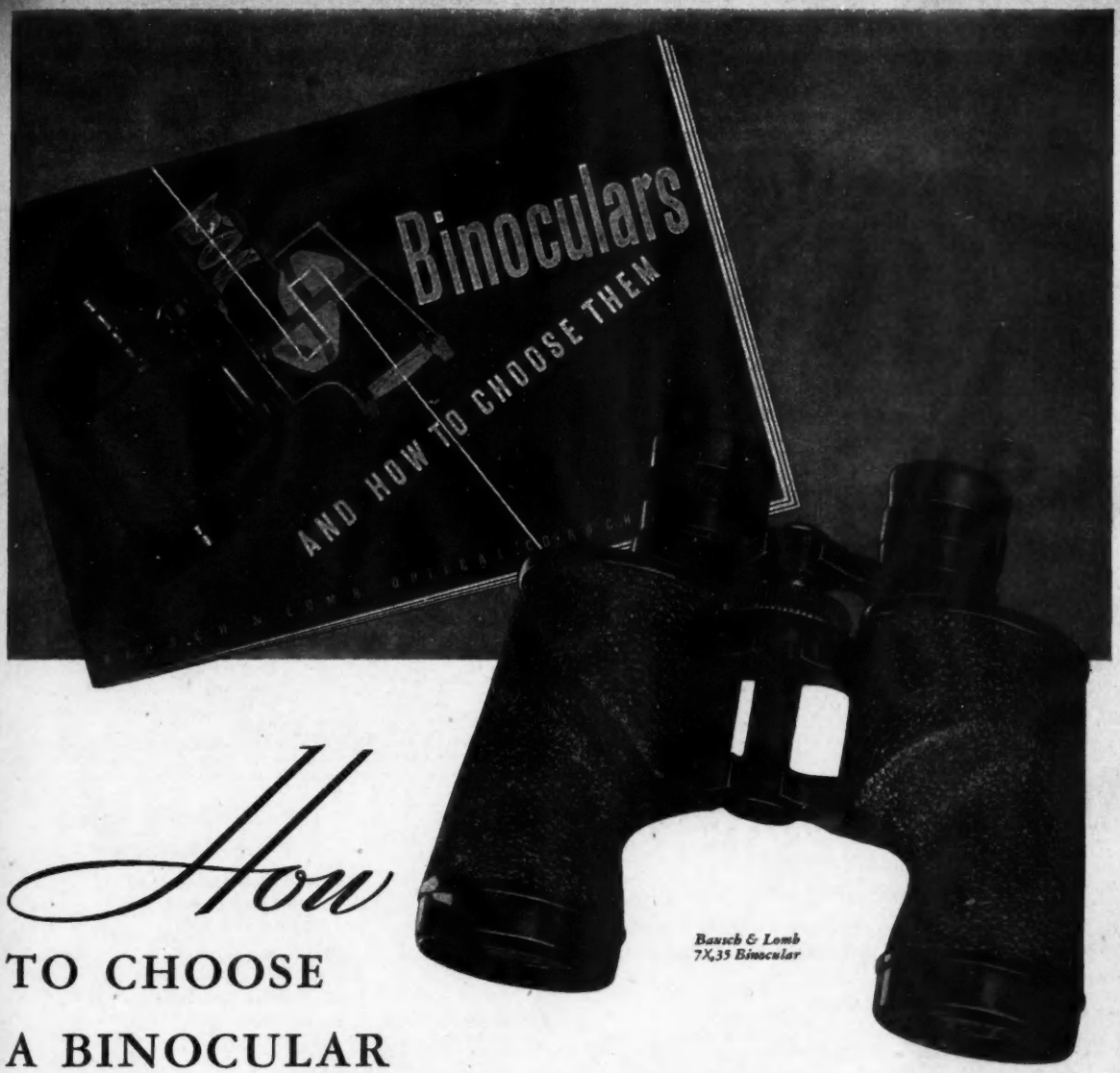

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From the Editor:

There's no doubting the popularity of our classified ads. We're glad we can offer the gun hobbyist such a market, but sometimes we get the feeling that the tail is wagging the dog. That's because of the many letters we receive every month from members who have found the exact item they wanted in the For Sale columns . . . have rushed off a telegram . . . only to find some other member beat them to it . . . that pet item has been sold. We wish we could be more sympathetic but, frankly, THE RIFLEMAN is not published, primarily, as an advertising medium. The gun market is a valuable adjunct . . . we couldn't or wouldn't want to get along without it. But, we'll have to admit our first consideration is contents . . . packing in the most informative articles we can find each month. That, we feel, is the heart of the shooting game. That's why we've increased the number of pages lately, within limits of paper supply. We're paying higher rates to writers to encourage a higher quality of authorship. We're going to greater expense to illustrate those articles . . . to give them eye-appeal and pertinent information in accompaniment.

Important, too, in this glimpse behind-the-scenes at editorial headquarters, is the manufacturing schedule. Beginning the first of the year, we cut down a few days each issue until by this month we're hitting close to the first-of-the-month distribution which has always been our goal.

But we're the first to admit . . . equal distribution is a physical impossibility. We can mail from Washington so that receipt in the various regions is uniform . . . on the same date. We've explained this many times. But within any region, there are bottlenecks in the shipping centers. Members in outlying districts of Chicago, for instance, will not receive magazines the same day as those within Chicago. Regrettable as this may be, we doubt if this inequity would ever bring a complaint were it not for the classified advertising. And as long as this inequity is bound to exist, we wish we could educate our readers to an acceptance of this fact. The ads are there, valuable items, we're glad we can offer. Their reliability is backed up within all reasonable bounds by the NRA. But as for getting there first with your order . . . you'll just have to take your chances. We're sorry, but that's all we can do. Meanwhile, we're concentrating on a bigger, better RIFLEMAN to reach you as near the first of the month as possible. We hope you'll continue to await it eagerly. But, for those of you who center your complaints on the classified ads . . . let's be sure the tail isn't wagging the dog.

The
AMERICAN RIFLEMAN

Official Journal of the National Rifle Association of America

VOLUME 94 NUMBER 7

JULY 1946

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COVER

The cool beauty of Oregon's famed Mount Hood, framed by midsummer foliage and a clear Western sky, is calculated to make the city sportsman think of hot weather trips afield with gun or camera. The Kodachrome was made by Hollywood photographer John Byron, from a vantage point on the Mount Hood Highway. Byron used a Contax II camera with two-inch Zeiss Tessar f.3.5 lens. Exposure was a twenty-fifth second at f.11, with a tripod.

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Simple Statement

NO democracy has ever permanently survived the selfishness of its own citizens.

That is a simple statement of fact, my friend, which you, as a citizen of our American Republic, may well ponder as you relax in the shade on the day we are supposed to celebrate the Declaration of Independence.

American history has, for the most part, been neither objectively written nor taught. As a natural result most Americans view the Revolutionary War as something of a week-end picnic with small groups of fearless, cheering American militiamen pursuing great armies of bewildered, shattered British Regulars from Bunker Hill to Yorktown. As a coincident result the average American inclines to the belief that the American Republic was the first workable democracy founded by man.

July 4, 1946, would be an excellent date on which to launch a national educational program aimed at teaching the average American some real facts of life regarding the history of democracies in general and our own American democracy in particular. The longer this effort is delayed the farther we, as a people, will have traveled down the road which has always in the past found death for democratic government at the end.

Because, you see, my friend, there have been other democracies and republics! We did *not* invent the idea. Back in the dim pages of history the flickering light of freedom grew from dim to bright and was snuffed out again by the carelessness and selfishness of a generation that mistook liberty for license and subverted personal privilege into special privilege.

This freedom you have enjoyed cost the lives and fortunes of many men. The Revolutionary War was a bitter struggle. The Declaration of Independence was, itself, a final desperate effort to salvage what looked like an almost lost cause. The government they established was no happenstance. They knew what we have forgotten or never learned—the pathetic story of older democracies and republics, destroyed by their own citizens. They consciously sought the best from the past and added checks and balances aimed at curbing excesses of passion, hysteria, and selfishness. They built so well that their American Republic has stood for a hundred and seventy years since it was conceived in the Declaration of Independence. Do you realize how many other experiments in democracy, sparked by our own, have *risen and fallen* in that same one hundred seventy years?

Thomas Jefferson said, "A pure democracy devours itself." Alexander Hamilton said, "Give all power to the many and they will oppress the few. Give all power to the few and they will oppress the many."

Joseph Goebbels, explaining the Nazi rise to power in the German Republic, said, "We availed ourselves of the instrumentalities of democracy to put democracy out of business."

What each of them was actually pointing out was that the grab for personal advantage, for group special privileges, for political advantage regardless of its effect on the whole of the citizenry, is the instrumentality of democracy which unfailingly "puts democracy out of business."

It matters not, my friend, whether your name be Mellon or Murray, Timken or Thomas, Smith or Brown; whether your color be white, black, red, or yellow; your religion Catholic, Protestant, Jew, or Moslem—pause on Independence Day, 1946, and ponder that simple statement of fact: "No democracy has ever permanently survived the selfishness of its own citizens."

—C. B. L.

Reconversion of a Hunter

"Which one of these is yours?" I demanded of the boy. . . .

By BERT POPOWSKI

ABOUT A YEAR AGO I MET the meanest man in the world. He had a cabinet full of the finest products of the gunmakers' art and lavishly extolled the virtues of every one of them. While we were talking, his fifteen-year-old son came in and hung over our shoulders, his soul in his eyes as he watched us heft and swing that choice assortment of shooting irons. I waited and waited for that youngster to get in on the fine man-talk. Finally, I could stand it no longer.

"Which one of these is yours?" I demanded.

"He's too young to have a gun of his own," said the man, who—with apologies to all owners of that grand old name—we shall call Bill Jones. "I'm going to buy him a gun of his own when he's twenty-one."

I glared at him and I was wholehearted about it. Just as soon as I possibly could, I got out of there, for I hated his guts from that moment. And all through the following hunting season I avoided him for, though he had access to some of the choicest hunting areas in his native state, he was too stingy to share it with his own flesh and blood.

About a week later young Bill came over to see my John about some Boy Scout doings. John and I were hustling about, getting ready for an afternoon with the squirrels. It was a technicolor autumn day and I was in a hurry, but the yearning

THE AUTHOR: *A steady contributor to outdoor magazines, Bert Popowski has built up a reputation as America's Number One expert on the art of crow shooting, and has written a book on his experiences. He lives in Omaha, Nebraska. "Reconversion of a Hunter" marks a provocative departure from his usual how-to-hunt-small-game topic: the need for better understanding between fathers and gun-hungry youngsters—their own, or someone else's. You'll find it thought provoking.*

on young Bill's face did things to me. I gave John the eye and he followed me to my den.

"Why don't you ask him to go along?" I suggested. "He looks like he might be pretty good company."

"Gee, could I, Dad?" he said. "Bill's a grand fellow but he's never gone hunting and he'd like to so much I'm ashamed to talk in front of him about the good times we've had together."

Well, I had an awful time getting out of town that afternoon. The glory that overspread that youngster's face when John invited him along was positively indecent.

That afternoon stands out in my mind as one of the finest hunts I've ever enjoyed, and I didn't fire a shot. We drove out about a dozen miles to where the river makes a big loop, almost doubling back on itself. There was some underbrush in the stand of timber, but not much. Mostly it was oak, beech, and elm with a sprinkling of walnut and hickory. The leaves were half on and half off and the ground was covered with a crunchy carpet of them.

We drove right down to the river bank and John started to get out his .22 repeater, while I uncased a 20 gauge shotgun.

"You know, we ought to check that rifle for zero," I suggested.

John opened his mouth to remonstrate, for we'd just done that the previous week. But he thought better of it and we set up a piece of board at the edge of the water, pasted a one-inch sticker on it, and flopped down on our bellies.

"The upper left-hand corner," I suggested, and John put one about an inch high. "Two more," I added. The three made a neat triangle that wouldn't show under a dime, but I shook my head and reached for the gun. Aiming at the lower left-hand corner, I got the next three just edging the paper sticker. I unloaded the rifle and handed it to Bill, while John and I went down to look the target over.

"It would be a good idea if we set the cross hairs to hit right on the button at about fifty yards," I said. "Bill ought to be able to hit a couple at that range and you can hold over if you get longer shots."

For the next half hour Bill did the shooting. Of course, he yanked 'em off and got nervous as a treed cat, but John and I ignored that and kept him at it. Finally, on the fourth sticker, he got three shots in a triangle about the size of a quarter, all nicely spaced about his aiming point. He looked pleased.

"That's a nice group, Bill," I said. "Now, let John take three shots at the same aiming point and see if it's any better."

John took plenty of time with those aiming shots and his triangle was well inside Bill's. In fact, the three bullet holes came precious close to touching each other.

About the aiming point I drew the rough outline of a squirrel's head, indicating the eye in its proper relation to the rest of the skull.

"Six shots, six squirrels," chuckled John.

"Bill, I want you to look at this," I said. "This rifle is plenty accurate to kill a squirrel with every shot if you hold it steady and squeeze your shot off. But you'll have to cut that squirrel's head in quarters with the cross hairs to do it."

"You mean I can shoot at squirrels?" he said. "I thought you'd just let me shoot at sticks and stuff." His face wore the most delighted expression I've ever seen. My own eyes smarted as I led the way, imagining the gnawing hunger for hunting that must have lived with him for months and years.

"John, I want you to use this rifle as a single shot to be on the safe side. Each of you take a box of cartridges and put it in your pocket, and I don't want you to separate at any time. He's the boss, Bill. You do exactly as he tells you." I turned back to the car.

There I picked up my 20 gauge, filled the magazine, dropped a half-dozen spare loads in my pocket and trailed the boys by fifty yards. It was a bit early for the afternoon feeding session, so I anticipated slow going for a while.

I was wrong. Within ten minutes I saw John hand the rifle to Bill and stand at his elbow. That bushy-tail was wary and they jockeyed around for five minutes before Bill raised the rifle, rested it against the gnarled trunk of an elm and sought his target with the cross hairs. A minute ticked by, then another, and still no shot came.

Finally, the whiplash of that shot woke long rolling echoes through the timber. I saw Bill start forward, then hold and come back as John spoke to him. Three pairs of eyes sought eagerly for falling game and of the three I think I was the most anxious. Just as I'd given it up as a miss I saw the squirrel plummet down and fall limp beside the gnarled roots.

John held the rifle while he sent Bill to retrieve that bushy-tail. Bill's yell of delight must have scared every squirrel within a half mile. I didn't blame him; I felt like yelling myself. I've never seen a lone squirrel that gave three hunters so much satisfaction.

"Bill, a hunter has to know other things besides shooting. When you yelled that way, you probably robbed yourself of any other shooting for the next half hour, at least."

"That's what John told me," he confessed. "But I had to yell or bust. Did I do all right on that one?"

"You sure did," said John. Then to me, "That squirrel was on top of a branch about as thick as my wrist and only his head was showing. It was a good shot, a swell shot!"

"Is that rifle loaded?" I asked as he set it against a tree.

"Yes, but the firing pin is set down."

"Unload it and let Bill do it all himself this time," I said.

"No, it's John's shot next," Bill said.

"Unh-uh. Not after that war whoop. You sweat it out."

Well, that's the way it started. Before the day was over, John and Bill and I had two more squirrel hunts under our belts, and Bill had popped off a cottontail that hesitated a bit

too long. That, too, was a dead-center head shot. Then and there I decided that Bill was ready for the next step in his training.

We ate our lunch under a huge oak that sat back some ten yards from the river bank and, when only crumbs remained, I salvaged the waxed paper in which the sandwiches had been wrapped, picked up our four squirrels and one cottontail and took them down to the water's edge.

"Bill, bring me that hunting knife in the car panel."

Both boys came to the water's edge while I dipped all of our game in the water to settle the loose hairs and then laid them out on a piece of driftwood. Bill looked askance at me.

"Every good hunter ought to know how to dress out his game. Even if he intends to give it away he ought to dress it out; then he knows it won't be wasted. I'm going to show you how on one squirrel, then I want you to do the rest."

Picking up a squirrel, I lifted a pinch of skin off the middle of its back and slit it across. Matching one hand against the other, I turned the halves of that squirrel pelt inside out, cut off the four feet at the ankles, the tail at the root, and beheaded it. John held the nude carcass by the hind legs while I split it at the crotch, sheared off the ribs at their point of attachment to the backbone, and flung the offal to midstream. Laying the dressed carcass on a piece of waxed paper, I offered the knife to Bill.

"Be careful of that knife," I warned. "It's razor sharp."

Bill fumbled around a bit, it's true, but by the time he reached the cottontail rabbit he did an acceptable job. We wrapped the lot in waxed paper, then rolled it up in newspaper and headed for home.

There was one more lesson and then young Bill's training was complete. Of course, he would learn for years, but the fundamentals of safety, consideration for the other fellow, and proper care and use of firearms and game were properly instilled in him. He had to be intoduced to the shotgun and its use on moving game. I'd cheerfully contributed the rifle ammunition, but in view of the shell shortage I hesitated a bit and finally appealed to John.

"His dad shoots a 20 gauge and he ought to be able to get some shells from him," John said.

"From that skinflint? Not a chance!"

But a week later, just as we were about to shove off for a combined crow-and-cottontail hunt, came Bill with a box of the precious loads. They were a mongrel mixture—some black shells that I hadn't seen in fifteen years and a motley assortment of shot sizes. I grinned as Bill proudly presented them for my inspection.

"Where'd you get them?" I asked, to get him talking.

"A neighbor hunter came over and said he was going to throw them away," he admitted. "Said they were old and he had plenty of new ones. They'll be all right, won't they?"

"Of course, they will!" I said. "Besides, John got a new hunting coat and with it we got another box of shells that you can have." John blinked at this sudden share-the-wealth move, but he was a gentleman about it.

The wind was uneasy with that restlessness of late fall days and uncertain weather. The leaves scudded and whiplashed back and forth across the roadway and the grasses bent low one moment, only to spring erect with little effect from the vagrant wind the next.

The two wildcats in the back seat had quit helling around about the time I pulled off on a road that wandered down to the river. And, when I stepped from the car with my shotgun ready, I found both of them right behind me with ready guns.

"Scram out of here," I ordered. "Do you think I'm gonna bird-dog for you? Drop down to the river bottom and get up your own game. And we'll meet at that big elm tree across the draw at high noon. Get goin'."

In the meantime I scouted along the river flats for the crow roost I suspected was there and about four miles down stream I finally found it, complete with all sign and large enough to indicate a sizable flock.

At noon the boys showed up with seven squirrels and four cottontails. Bill didn't wait a minute after he absorbed the quarter of apple pie that concluded our lunch. He picked up the game and some newspapers and started right for the river bank to dress 'em out.

"You don't have to help me, John," I heard him say. "I'm so glad to have this chance to get out that I'll be glad to do them."

"Don't be silly," John said. "I guess I'm entitled to my share of the fun of cleaning them." Bless his understanding heart!

We loafed around for an hour or so, then climbed in the car, and drove down near the crow roost. We didn't have many shells to spend but the experience would be something for Bill, giving him an opportunity to try his skill on wing shots with no great harm done if cripples resulted.

As I recall it we killed forty-nine crows in that abbreviated melee, and walked out of there without an unspent load to our name. The boys joined me on the front seat for the trip home, for the wind had turned cold and the soughing heater was an item of equipment not to be lightly discounted.

Young Bill took those squirrels and rabbits home with him. His father came over to see me a couple of nights later. The old boy came in with fire in his eye, but he went out as meek as a lamb.

Now, the two Bills form one of the better-known father-and-son combinations. They hunt together at every opportunity and I've even heard Old Bill refuse a hunt so he and the boy could take a long-planned jaunt after quail. I hope their luck was good; young Bill deserves it. ● ● ●

HOLLOW POINTS

SELECTING THAT ONE "PERFECT" BIG GAME BULLET FOR EVERY USE MEANS COMPROMISING AND, PERHAPS, LOST TROPHIES . . .

By ELMER KEITH

NOT TWELVE FEET AWAY, the huge Alaskan grizzly towered over us, bellowing and biting at a light shoulder wound from the guide's .30-'06. That momentary hesitation was all we needed. The first shot spun him around with his back to us and a second ripped out a section of vertebra. But the big beast, still on his feet, turned and lunged at us just as he took the third slug in the left shoulder. That one slowed him definitely—and permanently. He slumped at my feet, entirely too close for comfort.

Brethren, that was a lot of punishment for even a record grizzly to take. We were feeding that bear Western Tool and Cartridge Company 275-grain, hollow-point bullets in the Griffin & Howe .35 Whelen cartridge. The incentive for these bullets was 57 grains of du Pont's 3031 powder ignited by Remington 9½ primers. This is a man-sized load. That first shot caught the bear just under the left shoulder and spun all 1,200 pounds of him completely around. It nipped off the top of his heart and went completely through. The second shot ripped out a section of vertebra and exposed the spinal cord, tore away one side of the heart, and lodged under the skin on the far side of the breast. The third shot went all the way through both shoulders.

Phew! We wiped our sweaty brows and went down on our hunkers on the nearest soft spot, and gave ourselves over to ponder and cogitate on the ways of us humans. Skinning out that bear and studying the destruction wrought by those 275-grain, .35 Whelen bullets gave other food for thought, too.

Every small boy who ever threw a rifle to his shoulder knows the devastating effect of the hollow-point .22 Long Rifle bullet on his ground squirrel target, his ground hog or gray squirrel or whatever it is, especially when that bullet landed in the X-ring of the little beast's tummy. On such small game as cottontails, squirrels, or grouse this little bullet is a killer. But these same wild targets are often apt to be lost with the same placement when the solid bullet is used.

The average hunter is too apt to take his bullets for granted. He knows little about them and cares less except when a good shot is made and the game keeps on going clear out of the county. There is far more to bullet design than appears on the surface. It is a study worth the time of every Nimrod who ever squeezed a trigger. There's a whale of a difference in bullets and in their performance. There's a difference in the performance of the same bullets on different animals. Take the same 275-grain bullet that raised such hob with that big Alaskan bruin. When I tried that slug with the same load on a couple of black bears, the results were quite different and not so good. The first bear came out on a boulder about 100 yards up the mountain from where we were camped. He stood there with his forefeet on the rock, looking down at us. I didn't even have to get up. I simply rolled over on my belly and shoved the long twenty-six-inch barrel of that .35 Whelen over a bed roll. The white mark on the black's chest was a perfect sighting spot so I simply centered my front sight on it and squeezed her away. That black just seemed to curl up around that bullet. But before I could shoot again he was on his way. We trailed the bear until his traces disappeared completely in that alder jungle—and never again did we see hide nor hair of him.

The next bear we caught at about 200 yards, broadside. The first, quick shot was just under his chest, but the second

THE AUTHOR: *When Elmer Keith talks of hunting, he speaks with authority. Of a last year's hunt he complains: "Just got out of the hills and am so sore and stiff I can hardly write. Got my fat elk and mule deer hung up, so will eat good meat for a year anyway, but it was a lot of work in two feet of snow and I lost one horse; slid off the mountain and busted on a fir tree a quarter mile down, going like a bat out of hell when she hit." Keith lives in North Fork, Idaho.*

caught him square in the rump as he ran straight away. It missed the spine and ranged the full length of the body but never expanded at all. We found him after a considerable trailing job, and the guide's .30-'06 finished him off.

We heard later of several other bears and some elk that were lost because this same bullet failed to expand properly when used with the .35 Whelen and the .350 Magnum Griffin & Howe rifles. When I tried drilling the cavity out slightly larger and three times as deep, it expanded perfectly even on mule deer as far as 300 yards. This is a pretty good indication that depth of cavity controls expansion to a considerable degree.

Men who have used my hollow-point six-gun bullets in .38 Special, .357 Magnum, .44 Special, and .45 Colt know their terrific disruption of flesh when fired at relatively high velocities from heavy-frame guns. When properly cast and loaded to about 1,200 foot-seconds, these hollow points will kill a big porcupine or woodchuck instantly with a paunch shot. On the other hand, a gunful of the usual pointed factory loads in these calibers will seldom kill a porky with the same bullet placement. Even on light big game such as antelope and deer, even sheep and goats at close range, these heavy six-gun loads placed through the lungs on close broadside shots will kill cleanly and almost as quickly as a big-game rifle. This is due, of course, primarily to their big caliber and to the fact that these big, soft, hollow points expand to three times their normal size at 1,200 foot-seconds. They tear enormous holes and destroy so much lung tissue that the beast bleeds dry very quickly. When backed by 18.5 to 20 grains of Hercules 2400, these bullets in .44 Special and .45 Colt will kill such game at close range by such careful placement about as well as a .30-30. They are certainly not for small game as they would demolish a grouse or rabbit unless the head alone is hit. For proper expansion these hollow points must be cast no harder than one-to-sixteen tin and lead and the velocity must be maintained above 1,000 foot-seconds.

Big-game hollow points, or open or cavity if you will, are carefully designed and strongly built. They have stiff, strong, metal jackets which will stand up under the high velocities of modern cartridges, that is, 2,000 to 3,000 foot-seconds. Some, such as the old Peters belted bullets, are built with a big shallow crater in the point. Others like the Western Open Point or the Western Tool and Copper Works bullets have small but very deep cavities. The WT&C bullets have far shallower cavities than the Western OP, however. Bullet expansion is controlled both by the velocity of the bullet and by the depth of the crater in the point. The diameter of the opening in the extreme point is not so important in controlling expansion as is depth.

I have experimented a great deal with the depth of cavities in hollow-point bullets for use on big game. For example, in the .400 Whelen, the 350-grain WT&C bullet backed by 63 grains of du Pont 17½ used to go right through a broadside elk on all lung and shoulder shots, tearing a nice wound channel all the way. Once I drilled out the cavity of one of these slugs just about twice as deep as the factory had it. Then I shot it into a big cow elk at about sixty yards. She was broadside to us and the bullet took her just back of the shoulder and about midway up. She jumped, ran a short distance, then piled up from hemorrhage. That big 350-grain slug had disintegrated completely in the chest cavity. The largest piece of the bullet found was the big round .40 caliber base of the bullet. The rest of it had demolished the lungs and not even a large fragment had reached the ribs on the off side. This gives an idea of how completely you can explode a hollow point, even of heavy caliber and moderate velocity, simply by increasing the depth of the cavity in its nose.

"The big beast, still on its feet, turned and lunged at us . . ."

We used to file off the points of the .30 caliber M1 173-grain Government boattail until the lead core was exposed to about the diameter of the lead in an ordinary pencil. When a one-sixteenth-inch cavity was drilled a quarter of an inch deep in these bullets, they expanded well on game up to 250 yards in the .30-'06. In the .300 Magnum they worked beautifully to well over 400 yards and were superbly accurate. They always seemed to work well for me within these ranges, but one day Jack Stull rammed one of these slugs clear through a big buck. It went the full length of the body beginning at the rear and didn't expand a bit.

From that day we haven't used any more of these doctored Government bullets.

More, this business of drilling holes in Government bullets to make hollow points: while there's relatively little danger in doing what we did with the boattails, it's not to be recommended. Too many good rifles have been ruined by trying to make hollow points out of *flat-based* military bullets. This doesn't work. There's too much danger of blowing the core out and having the jacket stick in the bore of the rifle. There's a lot more lead exposed on the base of the flat-base bullet than there is on the boattail. The latter is almost completely enclosed and there is plenty of jacket metal around the base for the propellant gas to work on.

There's another objection to these bullets, too. While I have killed deer, mountain goat, and caribou with them and many coyotes and eagles, too, they did not expand at long range like the good, commercial sporting bullets. The jacket metal at the tip is entirely too thick to allow for good opening on such game.

The short hollow points in the Remington, 110-grain, .30-'06, high-speed load completely disintegrated at ranges up to 300 yards because of their extreme velocity and the size and depth of the crater in their noses. I have had them blow up completely on coyotes and never even make a mark on the skin of the side away from the bullet entrance. I hit a big mule deer buck in the shoulder at quite short range. It penetrated no more than an inch, and it blew out a crater the size of an egg but didn't even stagger the old boy. However, handloaded down to velocities of no more than 2,000 foot-seconds, this bullet penetrated coyotes and expanded nicely.

Hollow points have an advantage over soft noses in magazine rifles, in that the recoil doesn't batter their points when they are thrown against the forward end of the magazine box. This doesn't hold with the .35 and .400 Whelen, however. If these are left in the magazine too long, the noses will batter until the cavities are very nearly closed. This, of course, is especially true where the magazine load is held in reserve and a lot of single shots are loaded and fired. This is a matter for the hunter to watch carefully. I once tried some of these battered-cavity bullets on game and found that often they would not expand at all. So, take a tip from your Uncle Dudley and keep moving the cartridges out of those magazines.

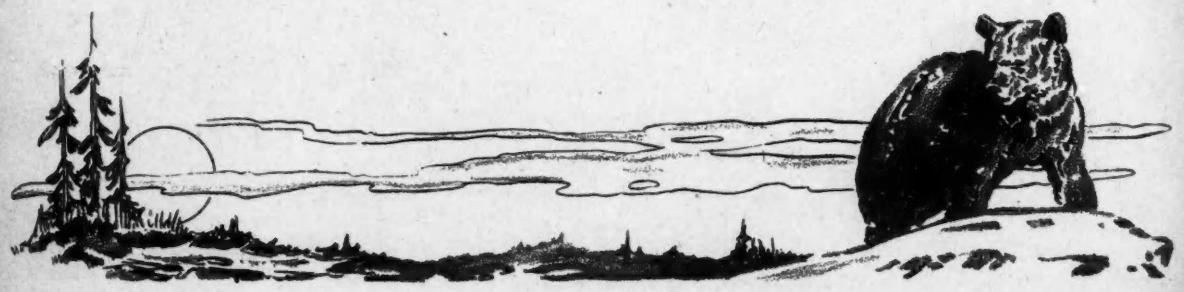
Within their proper range, hollow points are the most effective of all game bullets. This is the conclusion I've reached after nearly a lifetime of hunting with all kinds and types of sporting ammunition. I've used hollow points in everything from .22's to the old .45 Sharps buffalo rifles.

One of Keith's hollow point revolver bullets

To the designer and manufacturer, sporting bullets and especially hollow points are a prime headache. It is virtually impossible to design and make a bullet that is satisfactory in every instance insofar as penetration and expansion are concerned. And when the screwy demands of every Tom, Dick, and Harry in the hunting field are added to the legitimate problems of design and manufacture, it really is something. No hollow point I have ever tried that was perfect for light game at long range will penetrate deep enough on shoulder shots on heavy game at close range to do the job dependably.

A bullet properly designed to open just right at long range will usually expand too quickly for good penetration at close range on heavy game. Therefore, the hunter should know the capabilities of his bullet and be guided thereby. On such shots as these, for instance, the intelligent hunter would place his shots in the chest cavity, in the heart or lungs. For this reason, I prefer a good Spitzer bullet of either soft or hollow point with the jacket thinned to the proper weight at the bow and with sufficient depth of crater to insure certain expansion for all long-range shooting. For close shots on heavy game, I'll take a long, heavy, tough-jacketed soft nose with ample lead exposed. The soft nose won't make such big craters but, where penetration is needed, it will provide it with reasonably good expansion for the desired results. The soft nose seldom produces the instantaneous kills that the hollow point does on the lighter game, except at unusually high velocity.

If the shooting is apt to be at relatively short range on heavier game, I carry these heavy, (*Continued on page* 31)

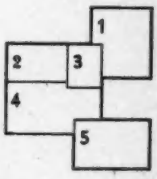


Shooting Holidays-1946

After four years, thousands of shooters are again crowding the country's outdoor ranges in a grand return to their most American of sports. It adds up to a full-scale rebirth of the lush shooting days of '39 and '40, temporarily shorn of their pre-war luxury, perhaps, but with all of the enthusiasm and interest of that peak target shooting era.

The eliminations are under way. A full schedule of local matches, leading up to regionals, is pointing ahead to the big championship bouts. Once again, national small bore and pistol champions will shoot their way to the top, with all of the excitement and competition that the main bout provides. This shooting business is making a fast postwar recovery!

For the big news of 1946 shooting prospects, turn the page.



1 Picked at random, these photos show recent local tournaments. This is Marine title event on Quantico range.

2 Typical was this registered tournament at Frostburg, May 26th, for Western Maryland championship title.

3 District of Columbia pistol meet was held June 1-2. Photo shows scorer at work. The meet attracted 192 shooters.

4 Part of firing line at DC pistol tournament. Twelfth Precinct police hosts provided modern range, plentiful prizes.

5 As local and regional champs are named, US target gunners look ahead to final national championship matches.

CAMP PERRY-1946!

Small Bore and Pistol Meet Planned for Aug. 31 - Sept. 8

Shooting Classic Revived After Wartime Suspension

THE PERRY MATCHES are back!

National Matches—for small bore and pistol—will be revived this year. As we go to press, the exact dates have not been set, but the match period will probably be August 31st to September 8th, inclusive. By the time this magazine is in the hands of readers, definite information as to dates, courses of fire, and housing arrangements will be available to all who care to write to the Competitions Section at National Rifle Association Headquarters. We hope that complete information can be published in the August issue of the RIFLEMAN.

This much can be said. It is unlikely that much of the old "vacationing" atmosphere will be apparent at the first postwar Camp Perry. This will be a "shootin' match" with few fancy trimmings. The future of Camp Perry is uncertain. The post has been in a caretaker status since the Army moved out its prisoners of war. The small number of troops required to handle the smallbore and pistol matches will not move into the camp until a short time before the matches start. No Squaw Camp will be operated. No Junior Camp will be operated. It is not believed that the clubhouse will be open. It is unlikely that the camp theater will be in operation. We have no information as to whether or not a "commercial row" will be operated. Anyone interested in this part of the Camp Perry set-up should write immediately and directly to Colonel E. F. Sloan, Executive Officer, National Board for the Promotion of Rifle Practice, Room 1340, Temporary Building C, War Department, Washington 25, D. C. The NRA has no control over the assignment of space for "commercial row" nor the assignment of space for living quarters.

There will be no facilities for the housing of families or boys who are too young to be quartered in barracks with male competitors. Families will have to make their own arrangements for quarters in hotels, tourist homes, or tourist camps in Oak Harbor, Port Clinton, and the area between those two towns. A barracks may be set aside for women competitors who are willing to live under squad room conditions, but no decision has as yet been made with reference to that point. Inquiries regarding quarters for women competitors should be addressed to Colonel Sloan. Please do not write the NRA about these matters because letters will have to be referred to Colonel Sloan for reply. This will merely delay the correspondence.

There will be no .30 caliber matches and no .30 caliber firing will be permitted.

A competitors' mess will be operated in the old familiar Central Mess Hall. Prices for meals have not been set. Army folding type cots will be available, but it may be necessary for competitors to furnish their own blankets and sheets.

The standard Camp Perry small-bore and pistol programs will be fired with the interest of the small borers centering in the Dewar Team and that of the pistolmen in the National Individual Pistol Match. The National Pistol Team Match will not be fired.

(*Continued on page 26*)

The German thirty-degree outfit. This type was probably developed with street fighting in mind, for use of soldiers firing from protected spots

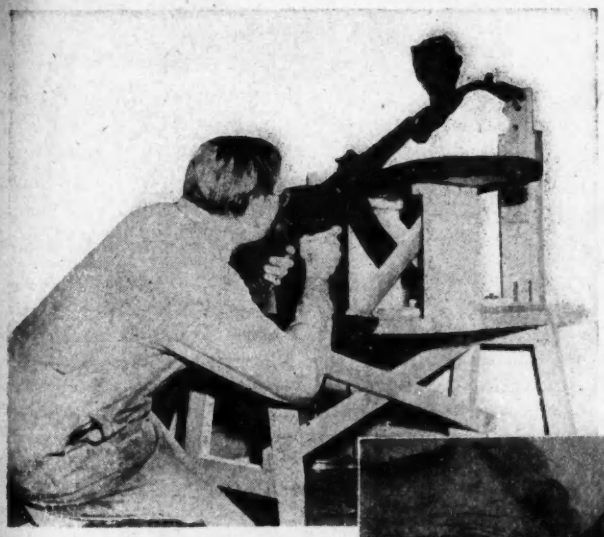
Around-the-Corner Guns

By PHIL SHARPE

"YEP," SAYS THE OLD-TIMER, "back in them days bear huntin' was tough hereabouts. Me'n old Jake Herkimer killed so many we had us a reputation built. The bears knew us, and it got so we'd never see 'em. They'd hide behind them big trees . . . "

"One day I says to Jake, I says, 'We got to get bears.' So I bent the barrel of my .30-30 so it would shoot bullets in a curve. We got 'em every time. Only once I missed a bear hidin' out behind one of them trees, and the bullet circled. If I hadn't ducked right then, I'd a shot myself in the back. But them bent barrels were the thing for bears."

FOR YEARS, PEOPLE HAVE POKED FUN AT THE IDEA OF MAKING BULLETS GO AROUND CORNERS. THE LAUGH IS ON THEM . . . IT'S A GERMAN BRAIN CHILD, CALLED THE "KRUMMERLAUF," AND IT REALLY WORKS



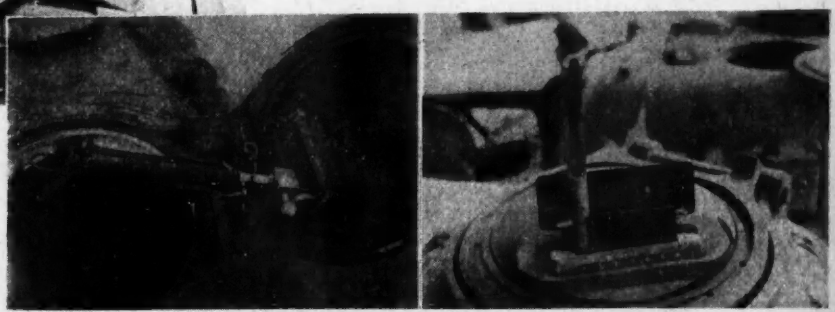
Testing the thirty-degree barrel. Note how far shooter's head is below level of muzzle.

You've heard that story a hundred times. Strangely enough, the Germans had heard it, too. They took it seriously and made it work! Along with radar, guns that see in the dark, and rampaging atoms that can level modern cities, this war produced the first guns that shoot around corners.

The *Krummerlauf* was an attachment for the Machine Pistol 44, the latest version of the Machine Karbine 42, the Machine Pistol 43, and the Machine Pistol 43/1. The MP 44 was, by direct order of Herr Hitler, to be renamed the *Sturmgewehre* 44, and some are so marked. The *Krummerlauf* consisted of a bent barrel, fitted to the normal muzzle of the machine pistol, exactly the same as a grenade launcher on their Model 98 rifle. Major difference between the MP 44 and its predecessors was in the front sight base—it had to be shortened to accommodate the grenade launcher, but used an identical fitting to accept the bent barrel designed for use on it.

How much can you bend a barrel? Practically everything in the book was subjected to experiment, but the two finally adopted (though never placed in more than pilot production) included a thirty-degree bend for sniping, and a ninety-degree bend for tank use. The latter changes the course of the bullet to shoot at right angles. You can poke the muzzle around the corner and let go!

A brief discussion of cartridge development is important, then a few comments on the gun that shot around corners. The guns are rare, but already dozens of American gun bugs, back in mufti, are experimenting with that cartridge in



The American "bent barrel" developed by the Ordnance Department is actually a trough-shaped deflector which changes the course of .45 caliber bullets fired from an M3 submachine gun.

American guns. And they say it shows a great deal of promise.

First, the cartridge:

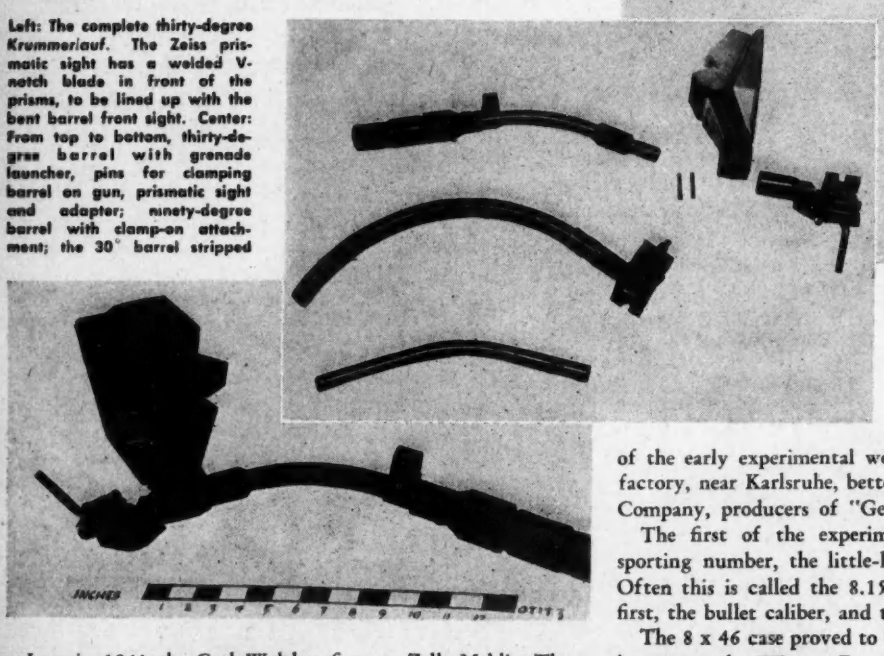
While many nations were seeking more and more power in hand weapons for the foot soldier, the crafty Krauts were going the other way. Combat in the last war showed them that in

their 7.92 single-shot load, they had too much power and range. This cartridge was the standard—the S. S. meaning *spitz Schwersgeschosse* or pointed, heavy, ball bullet. The bullet weighed 198 grains and had a muzzle velocity of 2,570 foot-seconds. They found that by substituting a soft steel core encased in a thin lead sleeve, replacing the solid lead core, the shape of the pointed, boattail bullet would remain the same, and the weight would drop to 178 grains. Thus was born the S. m. E. bullet (*spitz mit eisenkern*, or pointed bullet with iron core). This gave them a velocity of about 2,680, with no increase in pressures. Ballistically it balanced their 178 grain, armor-piercing bullet.

They still had too much cartridge. What they wanted was a short, compact cartridge of 7.92 caliber, a lighter weight and somewhat shorter, pointed, boattail bullet, and a lower velocity, yet ample power for ranges up to 200 meters.

All of this study was before the development of our own caliber .30 carbine and cartridge—ten years earlier!

Being practical, they turned to commercial sporting ammunition makers for the cartridge, and to sporting arms makers for the gun. The latter was to have the dimensions of a short rifle, a thirty-shot magazine, and control lever so that the speed of firing could be shifted from semi- to full-automatic at will.



Left: The complete thirty-degree *Krummerlauf*. The Zeiss prismatic sight has a welded V-notch blade in front of the prisms, to be lined up with the bent barrel front sight. Center: From top to bottom, thirty-degree barrel with grenade launcher, pins for clamping barrel on gun, prismatic sight and adapter; ninety-degree barrel with clamp-on attachment; the 30° barrel stripped

Late in 1941 the Carl Walther firm at Zella-Mehlis, Thuringen, and the C. G. Haenel plant at Suhl were assigned the job of development *on their own plans*, of a new weapon to be named the Machine Karbiner 42—called M. Kb. 42. Two entirely different guns were turned out—the M. Kb. 42 (W) and the M. Kb. 42 (H-S) and were so marked. Only experimental quantities were built, but they were given a field test in the hands of combat troops in actual battle.

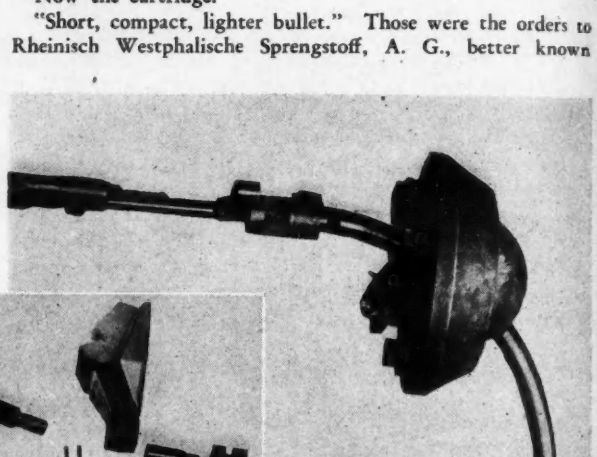
The Walther development was a lemon. We brought a half-dozen new guns into Paris for study, and not one could be made to function properly for more than a few shots at a time.

The Haenel gun was something else again. That gun worked, and it was a beautiful weapon. Only one specimen was ever located, but that was new and shot perfectly. It was, however, a very expensive weapon to build. Germany's experts seemed to have decided the same thing, so the plans were redrawn, with stamped and pressed sheet metal substituted for forgings and machined parts wherever possible. The redesigned gun became the familiar MP 43.

The original thirty-shot magazine would hold thirty-two shots. This capacity intrigued the Germans. However, it was difficult to get the last cartridge in, so the body of the magazine was lengthened something under a quarter inch, and then was not additionally changed.

Now the cartridge.

"Short, compact, lighter bullet." Those were the orders to Rheinisch Westphalische Sprengstoff, A. G., better known



Right: The ninety-degree *Krummerlauf* in mount designed for use on tanks

under the ammunition brand of "RWS." So the factory at Nurnberg and Stadeln in Bavaria went to work in 1934. Much of the early experimental work was assigned to their Durlach factory, near Karlsruhe, better known as the Gustav Genschow Company, producers of "Geco" brand arms and ammunition.

The first of the experimental cartridges was a Bavarian sporting number, the little-known 8 x 46 rimless bottleneck. Often this is called the 8.15 x 46. The German system lists first, the bullet caliber, and then the length of the case.

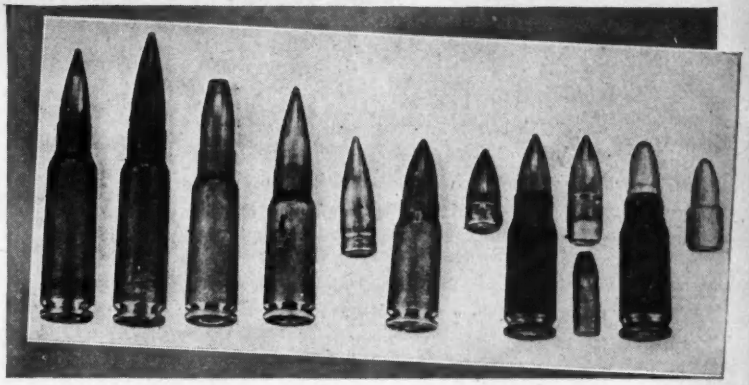
The 8 x 46 case proved to be unsatisfactory and the cartridge known as the Winters-Experimental came next. Case length was 36.45 mm. or 1.318 inches. This was first tested on October 24, 1935, using the old 154 grain, flat-base 7.92 bullet. Ballistic records were lost before I got there.

Many additional experiments were conducted, with RWS and GECO running to heavy bullets of the 150-grain class. Serious consideration was given their M-35 8 x 40. Actually, it was a 7.75 mm. with a 40.5 mm. case, averaging 1.595 inches in the several samples I examined. A 148 grain bullet was used, flat base, six-caliber ogive, flat nose, both full jacket and soft point, the flat nose having a diameter of .168 inch. In a twenty-two-inch barrel an instrumental velocity of 2,526

feet per second was recorded by chronograph.

With a war about to break, the German High Command removed the development from RWS and transferred it to the Government laboratories at the Polte Plant at Magdeburg (ammunition code mark "aux"), not far from Berlin. Polte began research in the last half of 1939.

THE AUTHOR: *Long experience as a gun editor and free-lance writer on arms paid off when Phil Sharpe entered the Army. Originally assigned to the Ordnance Department's historical section, Capt. Sharpe was later transferred to an overseas ordnance intelligence post, where he had an opportunity to see at first hand the often amazing developments of Germany's arms designers. Sharpe is the author of two books, "The Rifle in America" and "Complete Guide to Handloading," and has contributed to many outdoor magazines. Back in civilian clothing, he plans to carry on his war-interrupted career as a "shooter's writer."*



Development of 7.9 mm. Short cartridge: Left to right, original 8x46 sporting cartridge with 139 grain bullet; 8x46 with 154 grain bullet; experimental M35 8x40 with 148 grain flat-nose SP bullet; Winters-experimental 8x33.5 and 154 grain bullet; experimental Polte 1940 8x30 and 106 grain bullet; standard short 7.9 mm. 8x33 with 126 grain boattail bullet; 126 grain bullet and steel core; 7.9 mm grenade throwing blank and wooden bullet.

Their first experimental cartridge was produced in January, 1940. The bottleneck case had been shortened to 30 mm. and the bullet was a stubby, pointed 106 grain. It probably gave at least 2,500 foot-seconds in an eighteen-inch barrel. Accuracy could not have been good due to design.

The finally accepted cartridge, which went into production in 1942, *before a gun had been developed to handle it,* was called the 7.9 mm. Kurz or 7.9 mm. Short. Most ammunition during 1942 was head stamped 7.9, but during 1943, in keeping with conventional military practice, the head stamp "7.9" was dropped from the markings, and the usual military code marks adopted.

The bullet is worthy of more than passing mention. Instead of having an ordinary jacketed-lead core, this was of the "m. E." construction—with iron core surrounded by a lead sleeve. This made a longer bullet, yet held the weight down to 126 grains. It also conserved lead, and the soft steel core was swaged from wire instead of being lathe-turned. The core had a flat nose, primarily to facilitate manufacture.

The bullet was pointed, with a four-caliber ogive and a short boattail of about six degrees. The established charge is 24.6 grains of a special nitrocellulose powder of tubular granulation, having a diameter of .039, length .031, and perforation diameter of .008. No German ballistic data have been captured, to this writer's knowledge, but some tests I ran at Aberdeen Proving Ground in 1944 showed an instrumental velocity of 2,285 feet on the lot available. Recently, at the Winchester Research and Development Laboratories, I conducted tests of 1944 loadings, using a standard MP 44 with sixteen and one-fourth inch barrel. Velocity figures were recorded with Winchester's new supersensitive 400 KC Interval Timers over photo cells, the first being fifteen feet from the muzzle and the second forty-six feet beyond that. Thus, the figure of 2,269 "mean" we obtained is for the instrumental velocity at the midway point, or "Instrumental thirty-eight feet." Our calculations indicated that this would translate to a muzzle velocity of about 2,325 foot-seconds.

Incidentally, the ammunition tested was assorted lots of 1943 and 1944 Polte manufacture, and in poor condition, yet it showed a maximum variation in ten shots of only seventy foot-seconds, and a mean variation of 14.2 foot-seconds—unusually good for any wartime ammunition. In a good twenty-four-inch barrel, it would probably develop a velocity of about 2,400 foot-seconds.

You will hear a great deal about this cartridge in the months to come. The lads who like to play with things are intrigued with it, and on the West Coast some chambering reamers have been produced and barrels are already being tested.

About the MP 43, the MP 43/1 and the MP 44, little is repeated here. They were covered in the December, 1944, issue of THE AMERICAN RIFLEMAN, Page twenty-five.

So, we come to the "around-the-corner" gag.

I didn't believe it, either. I felt just as Major-General H. B. Saylor, Chief Ordnance Officer of the European Theater, expressed it when he was shown a sample thirty-degree barrel with a prismatic optical sight from the Zeiss factory, and a ninety degree barrel, without sight. The General studied them carefully, then exploded—"I don't believe it!"

By that time I had shot several hundred rounds from each. We had prepared a report on the *Krummerlauf,* its history, and its performance.

The bent-barrel idea was the invention of Colonel Hans Schaede, assistant to Doctor Speer in the Research Division of Rheinmetall-Borsig at Sommerada. Schaede gave some information on interrogation, but most of the data came from Major Fred Hartmann, supervisor of research in the Division of Infantry Units, at the Small Arms Laboratories at Berlin, Kummersdorff, and Hillerslaben. Hartmann spoke English, and talked freely about his test work.

In our tests with both degrees of barrel bend, we found that the safest way to fire them initially was in semiautomatic fire. In other words, single shot. The 90-degree barrel was designed for use in a ball joint, mounted in a tank port so that the man inside could attach an MP 44 and give a few bursts to cover his blind spots, preventing an enthusiastic GI from walking up and planting a couple of grenades in his treads—a favorite trick. Supported in that fashion, it worked admirably, but when fired by hand from the hip, a three-shot burst would spin the shooter around ninety degrees and scare him out of a couple of years growth. (*Continued on page 35*)

WILDCATS IN ALASKA

By Hosea Sarber

June 9, 1945.

DEAR COLONEL WHELEN:

IT HAS BEEN SOME TIME since I have written to you, and I have often wondered if you were still getting in a few licks in the field, and was pleased to note that you are so interested in varmint rifles. While I love the big-game rifle and shoot it the year round, I seem to get the most pleasure and by far the most shooting from the varmint rifle. My work calls for the collecting of hundreds of specimens, which makes it all the more interesting. Since I wrote to you last I have had Gebby make me three Varminters; I have two fine Wilson Arrows, and have shot one other belonging to a friend a great deal.

Gebby first made me a fine Varminter with heavy barrel on a Model 70, which I stocked with a fine, heavy target stock. The two others were on Springfield actions, one with a medium-heavy barrel (same size as Winchester Target Swift barrel), and one with a medium-light barrel; both rifles were specially stocked with target stocks. The light rifle was stocked by Linden, and the finishing and checking were done by myself. Both my Arrows are by Wilson and both are specially stocked with fine and heavy target stocks by myself from inletted blanks. In all, I have put some 8,000 rounds through these rifles which, however, includes over 3,000 rounds through my Winchester Swift with target barrel.

While, on the whole, my findings have been very close to yours with these rifles, there are several points that differ somewhat that I thought you might be interested in. In shooting my three Varminters, and in shooting several others by Gebby and two by Buhmiller, I have noted that each rifle did its best work by far with the Wotkyns-Morse 8-S bullets. In fact, in full-charged loads it is almost necessary to have these bullets for fine accuracy. The prewar Sisk-Niedner bullets shot very well in the three Varminters, but the load must be reduced by several grains as that bullet will not take the velocity of the Varminter cartridge with full-charge loads. At least one or two shots out of ten will blow completely. By cutting down the charge of 3031 from thirty-five to thirty-two or thirty-three grains, these bullets shoot well in the Varminters. This is the 55 grain bullet, of course. With the 8-S bullets of prewar manufacture by Morse, my heavy barrel Varminter will stay in an inch with proper loads at 100 yards, and well inside two inches at 200; that is, it did, but now having about 3,000 rounds put through it, all full-charge loads, it is well worn. However, the other two Varminters did not shoot quite so well. Both averaged larger groups at 100 yards with best loads.

A load that shot most excellently in my heavy-barrel Varminter, and is I believe the finest long-range load in the Varminter, is the 60 grain 8-S bullet ahead of thirty-nine grains of 4350 powder. I tried forty grains as recommended by my old friend Tack Lee, but it did not shoot quite as well in my rifle as the 39 grain load. This load shot with the finest accuracy, and did the best work out at really long ranges, especially in the wind, of any I have tried in the Varminter. I have taken many eagles with it at 300 yards and over, also many seals at close to that range.

In all my loads in the Varminters I have had to use either the Winchester 115 or the Remington 8½ primer to get really fine accuracy. I have tried the 120 primer with a number of loads, but it is too hot and usually strings the shots up and down. I even tried it with 4350 powder, but the 115 was by far the best. I use the .033 graphite wad in all loads, but I have never been able to determine that they gave any better accuracy. Neither am I certain that they add barrel life. However, I did get well over 3,000 shots out of my Winchester Target Swift barrel before accuracy fell off too much.

When I rebarreled my Target Swift with a Winchester barrel, I was surprised to find that I could not get any really fine accuracy with any of the loads that had worked well in the original barrel. I was disappointed, as the first barrel always shot most excellently with fine handloads, though I never got

THE AUTHOR: *Though they have never met, Alaska game commissioner Hosea Sarber and Col. Townsend Whelen have corresponded for a decade. Sarber's work carries him into the finest hunting areas of the Northwest, and his predator control and game management responsibilities have given him unparalleled opportunities for field tests of the fine custom cartridges he prefers.*

Left: .22 Varminter
Right: .250 Savage

really fine accuracy with any of the factory ammunition. I had been flirting with the Arrow hull, so when this barrel did not shoot well with my tried-and-true loads, I hustled it down to Wilson to see what it would do as an Arrow. To my amazement, I never had a finer shooting rifle. It went right down to and under an inch and stayed there with either the 8-S bullets or the Sisk prewar Express in fifty-five grains, and this with any of the loads in reason that I tried. It did the same with the Sisk-Niedner fifty-five grain, which, however, like the Varminter, had to have the load reduced slightly. That bullet will not take full-charge loads, which is to be expected. I use either 4350, 4064, or 4320 powder in this caliber with perfect results. It also handles any of the regular primers—120, 115, or 8½. I tried the Sisk-Express 55 grain bullets with 35, 36, 37, 37½, and 38 grains of 4320, all of which shot into one inch or less at 100 yards.

This rifle shot so well and delivered such fine performance that I immediately set about to get another Arrow, and was lucky enough to get another fine Winchester Target Swift barrel for one of my Model 70 actions. This rifle gave exactly the same performance as the first. Consequently, a friend of mine got busy and had Wilson make him an Arrow, which I had the privilege of shooting a great deal. This rifle was the Model 70 Target Swift rechambered by Wilson, and using the regular Winchester target stock from another rifle.

In all my Varminter shooting with full charges, I have had to resize my hulls every three to five shots to keep them from sticking in the chamber. The cases never seem to wear out, however. About the same is true in the Arrow. I resize after four or five shots to prevent slight sticking in the chamber. The shells, however, do not stretch in length, and after a neck reaming or two I have no further trouble in that respect. I have loaded some of them twenty or more times, though I believe the Swift case is far stronger than the relatively light brass in the .250 Savage.

I have put fully 2,000 full-charge loads through one of my Arrows. The "smoky" appearance is just starting to show ahead of the chamber, and the sharp corners of the rifling are beginning to show wear. Accuracy has not yet begun to fall off. A peculiarity of the Arrow hull is that it will not shoot worth a sour damn with wads, while both the Varminter and the Swift use them perfectly. However, judging from my rifles, the Arrow will go fully as many rounds as the Varminter with barrels as described here.*

Summing up, I should say that there is no difference in accuracy between the Arrow and the Varminter calibers provided the Varminter is fed the very finest of components and loads fitted to that particular rifle. But mix up the components and the Arrow has it topped a great deal, as it will take any of the good bullets I have tried and give splendid accuracy. Also, it is not nearly so fussy to load for, taking with good results most of the powders and primers, and a much larger variety of loads.

As you know only too well, no one gets such fine accuracy as mentioned unless everything is tuned up just right except by chance. The accuracy of my first Arrow began to fall off gradually in field shooting after about 1,000 rounds. That had me down for a time. I checked the bedding, shimmed the barrel here and there, and scraped and pared. It grouped well enough, however, from any given position but change around as in field shooting and accuracy went sour. I missed eagles repeatedly at 200 yards. I should have found the trouble long before I did, but in some way overlooked the fact that the recoil chamber had set back slightly from continued recoil. I inserted a thin brass shim between the recoil lug and its abutment in the stock and, presto, no more trouble at all. Since that experience I always check closely on all my rifles to make sure they bear firmly and squarely at this point.

AN ALASKAN GAME COMMISSIONER WRITES OF HIS EXPERIENCES WITH CUSTOM LOADS. HIS TESTS MAKE THIS AN AUTHORITATIVE SURVEY OF "WILDCAT" POTENTIALITIES . .

A test I have given my varmint rifles is to shoot eight or ten shots at 200 yards, firing each two shots from an entirely different position in relation to the target. That is, I get up after each two shots and move to a new location so as to be sure I get a good change. I also change or reverse the direction of shooting so as to get a little different elevation from position to target.

* I think the accuracy life of the barrel is more important than many of us realize. In the case of some of the more recent ultra high-velocity wildcats the accuracy life is only 500 to 700 rounds. With such a rifle, when the most suitable load has been developed, zero and trajectory found, and the rifle has been tuned up for both pure accuracy and field accuracy, there is precious little life left for the hunting for which the rifle was ultimately intended. It would seem that the greatest need today, if we are to develop higher practical velocities, is for a barrel steel which will better resist erosion.—Townsend Whelen.

As you know only too well, a rifle has to be properly tuned up to stay in the groove under such conditions. In testing my last Arrow, after I had made and fussed with the stock for many hours, I put it through this test at 200, keeping my fingers crossed. It put eight shots in exactly two and one-quarter inches under these conditions, with seven shots in one and three-quarters inches. The load was the 55 grain Sisk-Express prewar bullet and thirty-eight grains of 4064 with 120 primers. All shots were fired by simply flopping down in prone position with whatever rest could be found, rocks in this case. I never use the sling in field shooting.

September 6, 1945.

Since you put the idea in my mind some time back of using light loads in the Varminter, I have given them a good run in both that rifle and in the Arrow. There is a lot of fun to be had with this type of shooting. In the Varminter I have to use the 8-S bullet to get the finest accuracy, although the Sisk-Niedner in fifty-five grains does mighty well with light loads. In the Arrow any of them shoot so nearly alike that I cannot see any appreciable difference. Just the other day I shot the Arrow with light loads at 200 yards, using the Sisk-Niedner 55 grain, twenty-two and one-half grains of 4759, and 120 primer. I shot only five-shot groups, but they were so tight I dislike to tell about them. None were over two inches, with some no larger than one and one-half inches! One group was one and one-quarter by three and three-eighths inches, which, of course, is to be expected once in a while when shooting only five-shot groups. Now that I have another barrel coming up, I am going to shoot a string of ten-shot groups of both light and full-charge loads. Wilson is now rebarreling my bull gun Varminter with a heavy barrel of Winchester make. We cut the barrel to twenty-five inches, taking the cut from the breech end, as the full bull barrel is simply too much for field use, and Wilson says it is entirely practical to do this with this caliber and that he can detect absolutely no difference in the accuracy. This should be a honey, but it would seem to me that it could not possibly outshoot the Winchester Target Swift barrels, which my other Arrows are. As soon as Gebby gets his feet under him again, however, I plan to have him make me another Varminter.

Left: .22 Arrow
Right: .220 Swift

I have never got hold of barrels that lasted as well as the Winchester custom tubes made for the Swift with .224-inch groove diameter and fourteen-inch twist. My Winchester barrels last longer than my other chrome-molybdenum barrels did by at least 500 rounds. Both barrels were shot out with full-charged loads, all with the .033 graphite wad. As to the wads, though I have used many thousands of them, I cannot find out for certain whether they prolong barrel life appreciably. I use them just in case, but I really do not know. I have never found that they gave better accuracy, but in some loads and calibers they do destroy accuracy. I had at first attributed the long barrel life of my Winchester barrels to wads, but now that I have worn out my chrome-molly barrels, also with wads, with fewer shots than the Winchesters, I can only attribute it to the Winchester steel.

For my field work inland I still stick to my .30-'06 because of the much heavier bullets for use on heavy stuff like moose and brownies. You would be surprised how much of this type of shooting I have, which gives me the most splendid opportunity for observation. For example, in one section of the Kenai country I have been making some special field investigations, to determine the loss of moose calves. Andy Simons, that grand old field man, and I have been working together in there each spring and fall for two years, camping way back beyond for about a month or six weeks each trip. What a country! We found the trouble in that particularly remote section to be coyotes and bears eating up the calf crop. That is where the losses were occurring, and to such as extent that the moose were not holding their own even with no hunting. The coyotes have appeared only in recent years, and the bears have increased alarmingly in there. The answer, particularly in that demonstration area, was to cut down the bears and coyotes very appreciably, so we turned in. We knocked off fifty-one blacks, three brownies and nine coyotes, and I shot one wolverine. For this I used my .30-'06 with special handloads of my own, using the fine old prewar Western Tool and Copper Company bullet of 172 grains and forty-eight grains of 4320 with the Winchester 120 primer. This is a fine all-around load for that type of country and shooting, even if some fellows back in the States can't kill jack rabbits with the .30-'06! I still have no room for complaint.

Incidentally, in that assignment Andy and I saw over 500 moose in the aggregate. That, mister, is a moose country! By running myself completely into the ground here in the fall, I knocked off as many as nine bears in one day when they were feeding on the high berry fields. But I covered twenty-five miles that day. Andy, the old goat, did the same thing, and we both were stumbling when we got back to our little camp, which incidentally is a Whelen tent with a few slight changes as to size. It is the little lean-to described in your book, which I got years ago and made by myself. I have never found an open-fire tent nearly as good.

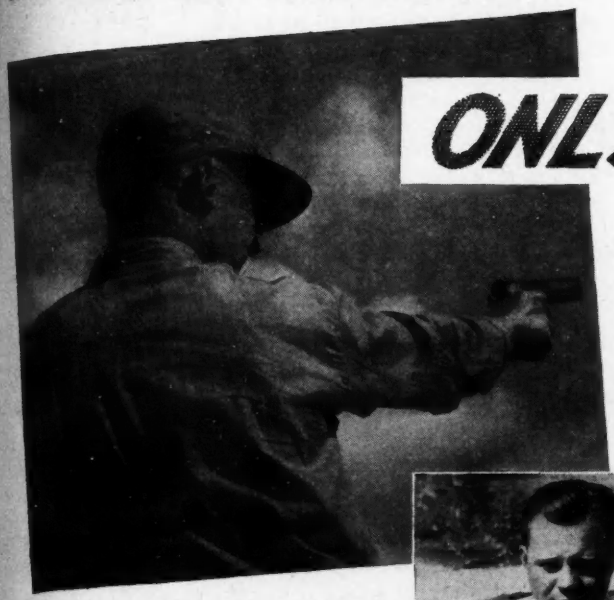
I have been going full blast all winter, and now that the days are getting long it suits me better. I go day and night all spring and summer, but the days are never long enough at that. Sunday is just another day in the week as this work is intensely interesting, with the predator control work. I collect hundreds of seals for the making of wolf bait from the processed blubber, and the beggars are the toughest of targets. These hot-shot .22's are just the ticket. Have killed over 200 wolves in the past year, and that is a lot of work. I have not taken one day's leave in over ten years, and all that bothers me is that I hope I don't have to take any leave. If I did I'd go seal hunting. ♦ ♦ ♦

A VETERAN HANDGUNNER JOURNEYS BACK TO THE NOSTALGIC DAYS OF '38 AND '39 TO SHED A TEAR OVER THE LOST LAUGHS . . .

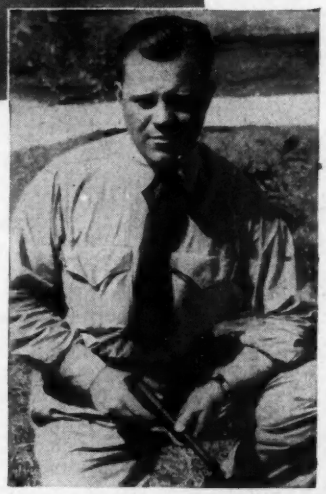
Part One

By LEE ECHOLS

ONLY YESTERDAY



"The veteran Al Hemming . . . lashing out many times with flashes of a dying fame."



". . . a quiet, unobstrusive, heavy-set lad on his first trip South: Harry Reeves."

MEMORIES ARE GREAT THINGS for a shooter. They are the spider webs of nostalgia that reach back through the yesteryears and imprison in the mind the little things which never seem important at the time, but which slowly mellow and become the very substance of the past. Memories are the things which make a tangible dream of the great years from 1938 until the war engulfed us and brought an end to the greatest target shooting era we had ever known. They are the great scores shot on a hundred ranges during those tough, competitive years. They are the great men who shot them, but some of them lie now in shallow graves from Tenaru River to Suribachi and from Hell Fire Pass to the Belgian Bulge. They are the funny things which were done and said in the hotel rooms in Tampa and Seattle and Kansas City, and in the Squaw Camp tents at Perry.

Yes, memories are great things. Sometimes they are as beautiful as a cello concerto, sometimes as cruel as the crooked-bladed knife of Genghis Khan, and sometimes they are as funny as hell. Go with me down the trail of yesterday to the matches which made 1939 the year that it was.

The great Flamingo Open started it off at Coral Gables. They came trickling in by the first of March, and by the time I got to that tropical clime from cold, frozen New York, the handgun men were thicker than .30-30 rifles at a Mexican election. There was prize money, trophies, and medals, and the slick-squeezers were there to get it. Mark Wheeler from the Los Angeles Police, rough as a dull ripsaw, with old scores to settle from last year. Al Hemming from Detroit, who'd nosed him out and saw no reason why he couldn't do it again. Sergeant Marvin Driver, hustling his Detroit champions around as if they were done up in eggshells. One of them was a quiet, unobtrusive, heavy-set lad on his first trip south. Innocent appearing as a lamb nibbling clover, dangerous as a cottonmouth moccasin. He was Harry Reeves.

Clem Theed, a Miami lawyer, one of the greatest exploiters of pistol shooting in the United States . . . and Kelley . . . and thirty or forty more Palmetto Pistol Club members, all saw to it that everyone who attended had the individual time of his life. Charley Askins from El Paso, shooting some of the finest Slow Fire scores ever fired. My gang of Treasury bushwackers, arriving from all over. Chapman and Rogers from Seattle . . . Wilson from San Francisco . . . Meloche from Phoenix.

And I remember John Mills and his pretty little wife from Rochester, and Walt Gassenheimer and his from New Jersey. . . . Nights in the Miami fun spots and days spent in trying

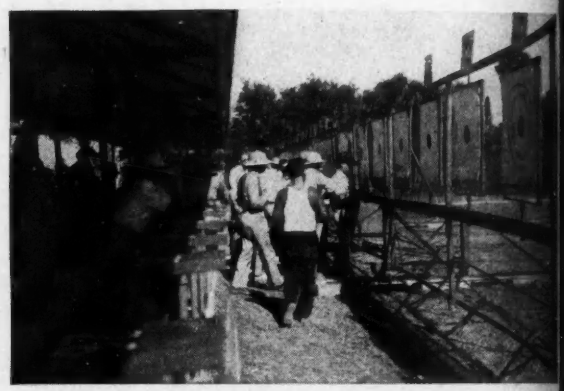
THE AUTHOR: *Echols is versatile. Before the war, he found time to hold down a Customs Service post in Laredo, plus a full schedule of pistol competition. Now out of the Navy, Echols is back with Customs, shooting again, becoming an author and managing a part interest in a West Coast grocery chain. Concerning the latter, he explains, "I know as much about the grocery business as I do about trade routes through the Sargasso Sea." Whatever his shortcomings as a grocer, Echols is in the front rank of pistol competition. He is co-holder, with Treasury's Anderson and Meloche, of two 2-man world team records.*

to stem the tide. The tide was an innocent, quiet lad from Detroit, Harry Reeves, who was winning his first big tournament. It was the veteran Al Hemming who wasn't giving up his hard-earned crown of last year without lashing out many times with deadly flashes of a dying fame. It was Charley Askins and Mark Wheeler. And it was rough.

I remember how the Detroit Police set three team records in a row and I remember Marvin Driver rushing out to congratulate them on the last one and hitting the new-fangled cable contraption on the galloping target arrangement invented by the versatile Clem Theed. He sailed through the air, howled like a bee-stung bear, and broke every bone in his brisket when he landed on the field glasses which were dangling from his neck. And through all this I can hear the raucous cacophony of *Sweet Violets* on the nickelodeon in the clubhouse and see Jack Styles, mad as a garbage man working on Sunday, when the NRA boys wouldn't let him use that long back sight he'd dreamed up and had fastened on his .45. I remember Neff from Palmetto, reaching high in the clouds and pulling down a 280 in the Center-Fire National Match, only to be outranked for first place by Detroit's Hemming.

LaLonde, from Detroit

I remember an old weed-bender from Orlando telling a group of us how lucky we were that old Gimlet Eye hadn't shown up for the match. Old Gimlet Eye, it seems, could have taken us all, hand over hand. He could throw a ten-cent milk can in the air and hit it with his single-action pistol. We set Milt Hicks, the trick shooter from Peters Ammunition Company, on him. Milt threw a penny into the air and drilled it with the first shot. He did the little act in complete dead pan. I remember the weed-bender retiring in complete confusion.



"The great Flamingo Open started it off at Coral Gables. When I got there the handgun men were thicker than .30-30 rifles at a Mexican election."

And I remember with mixed emotions the closing banquet and dance at the Coral Gables Country Club, the palm trees, and a moon as big as a 1,000-yard rifle target. I remember awaking the next morning from a pleasant dream of match-winning scores, composed of equal parts of Florida fizz water and Bonded Jim Bean to find that the first reckless pond scroggin of March was nosing up through the Everglades and we were on our way to Tampa for the National Midwinter Pistol Matches.

Jones, of Los Angeles

Smitty Brown took over, and Chief Woodruff . . . and the Floridian Pistol Club . . . and the Tampa Police . . . and God only knows who-all. I remember beating the Chief eating barbecue, but I couldn't hold a candle to him at harmonica wrangling . . . or singing Mexican songs. I remember we had the pistol shooting to do all over again. Reeves . . . and Hemming . . . and Wheeler. There was LaLonde and there was Askins. But this time there was Melton Rogers, and he grabbed the .22 Aggregate and sizzled his way out in front with the lazy insolence of a pool shark to win the .45 Aggregate. But he came unglued in the .38 matches. I remember how the rest of us from the Treasury Team gathered around him at the last, fearful that he might need medical aid, so wild and desperate was his aim.

Engbrecht, Los Angeles

There was poor old Marcus Aurelius Wheeler from the Los Angeles Police. He'd won the Grand Aggregate in 1938 and taken home enough money to pay off the farm and he came back in 1939 hotter than a schoolhouse furnace, traveling on short money and expecting to win enough at the matches to finance the trip and buy the adjoining forty acres. I remember his shooting the identical Grand Aggregate score he'd fired in 1938 and placing a poor fourth. He traveled 6,000 miles and won exactly two dollars and fifty cents. And there was the barbecue at the Lee Ranch and the big farewell banquet and dance, and I remember going back to New York and trudging around in the snow.

Memories . . . We blew into San Diego in early July for the Southwest International Matches and the San Diego Police were there to play host. . . . A colorful Mexico City Police Team, spark-plugged by the ambidextrous Juan Chavez. . . . Lieutenant Joe Dirks from Los Angeles and his Strong-Arm Squad. They complained that they were all getting too old to shoot, and referred to themselves as "has beens." I remember old gullible Echols believing it until I watched them win every team match and swamp us individually until we didn't know whether we were shooting bows and arrows or water pistols. But they didn't swamp Major Richards of the U. S. Marines. Neither did anyone else. When it began to look like someone might swamp him, he'd take himself back of the line and give himself a good talking to. He won the Grand Aggregate and Emmett Jones of Los Angeles melted three gun barrels trying to catch him.

I remember little Gloria Jacobs, daughter of a California Highway Patrol Captain. Pretty as a speckled pup under a red wagon and accurate as a three-tined fork in an olive jar. She fired a 295 over the Camp Perry Police Course in the team match and a 291 in the individual and we didn't know . . . but should have suspected . . . she was to break the world's record over the same course before the year died.

I remember Norman Adair from Yuma and Dee Keesee, and the gang from Imperial Valley, and the California Highway Patrol Team, led by the lusty Gustin. . . . Tia Juana, and Oscar Peterson from the Los Angeles Police singing "Rancho Grande" louder than the pine-box fiddler in the Foreign Club. And I remember Pop Ward sneaking up behind me and biting the hell out of me when I wasn't looking, and Mark Wheeler playing Hot Hand with me until I couldn't get my hands in my pockets, let alone around my gun handle. The swelling went down just before the matches were over and I finally got my hands in my pockets, only to find that I had run out of funds.

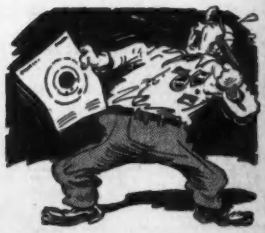
Chapman, from Seattle

"... and I can remember Sergeant Marvin Driver, hustling his Detroit champions around as if they were done up in eggshells."

1939 was a great year for shooters. We went from San Diego to Los Angeles for the California State Matches. I remember the beautiful Elisian Park range, landscaped by movieland slickers, who put waterfalls and rock gardens and virgin forests where barren hills had been. I remember the beautiful swimming pool, the gargantuan gymnasium, the great barbecue pit . . . everything done in the supercolossal style of a Cecil B. DeMille movie. And still all this fades into something without force or effect when I think of the terrible Emmett Jones. It is like the baseless fabric of a vision—hollow, nominal, invalid. He was not to be tampered with. The memories of the San Diego Matches seared his soul and made a nightmare of his very being. They were salt in his wounds and gall to his hurt pride, a goad to his deadly eye. I can see him as if it were yesterday, shooting like a woman with a big dip of snuff in her mouth, blasting out 290's over the hard course every time he went to bat. . . . Scarier than that with his .22 and equally rough with his .45. Engbrecht, Ward, Wheeler, and the rest of the boys right on his heels. They were so hot we felt them all over for braces and openly accused them of using opiates. I remember Chapman and Rogers were going well for our Treasury team, and Meloche, Wilson and me trying to climb on the wagon. We almost got away with it in the five-man team match over the Center-Fire short course, averaging 292. Los Angeles wouldn't stand for it, though, and they mopped us up by two sickening points. We tried them again in the five-man team match over the long course. This time we put it over and felt as proud of ourselves as Cinderella-man Braddock must have felt when he whipped Max Baer . . . Melton Rogers, spreading wider than ever, out in front with a fiery 293. I remember Joe Dirks, the perfect host, and his fine gang of roughstuff dispensers showing us the town. They would take everyone to their hearts with their sincerity and then one of them would put a dynamite fuse in your hip pocket or have you arrested for molesting Lana Turner. And then it was over and they put us on the Golden State Limited for Chicago. *(To be concluded)* ◆ ◆ ◆

Gloria Jacobs, California

Norman Adair, from Yuma

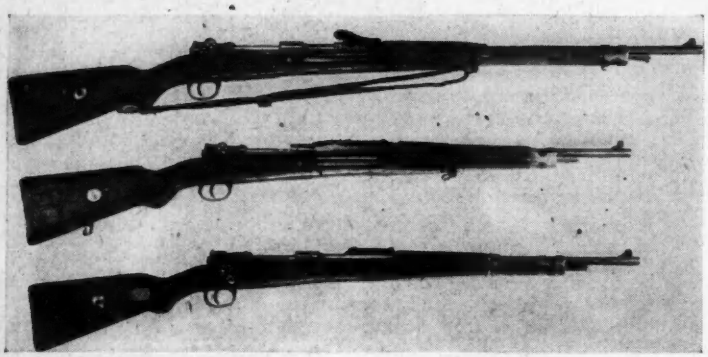


THE HOME WORKSHOP: Part One

Remodeling the Military Mauser

By MORGAN HOLMES

YOUR MILITARY MAUSER has one of the best actions it is possible to secure. In good condition, it will serve well for a lifetime or more. It can be used as it is, or it can be converted to any cartridge having the more-or-less standard .30-'06 head. Possibilities are the .22-250, .250-3000, .257 Roberts, .270, .30-'06, and similar cases, without any change being necessary on the bolthead. I have used, abused, and converted many of these actions and all of them worked perfectly, some even better than reasonable judgment should have expected. They are fine for heavy bull guns, to be used for target or vermin shooting, and can be built into hunting rifles that are handy to use and as light in weight as a big-game rifle should be. Mauser strength is ample when used with standard loads, as has been proved by its universal acceptance all over the world for so many years.



Converting a military Mauser to sporter varies, depending on age and type of gun. At top, old model rifle must have barrel shortened and bolt turned down to be practical. Lower rifle with short barrel and bent bolt means a simpler remodeling job, with fewer tools.

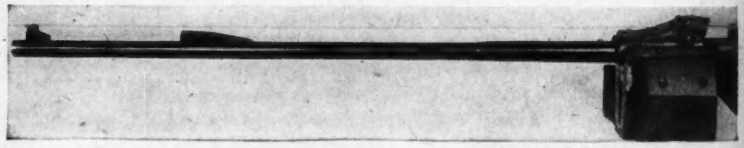
There is no reason why the rifle should not be used just as it is. If you do this, there is only one thing I would suggest: Get the head space checked. No action is safe if it has too much head space. If the head space is correct and the barrel is in shooting condition, that is, if it is not too badly pitted from rust and not too much eroded at the throat (just in front of the chamber), you can use it with its standard cartridge with no fear of trouble. The cost of checking head space is very small and should be done by some gunsmith doing barrel work.

One other caution: Be sure you use the cartridge your rifle is chambered for. If in doubt, have a gunsmith check. Otherwise, a blown rifle and perhaps serious injury may result from a wrong combination.

If the rifle is found to need repairs, have it repaired or keep it as a trophy, but *do not shoot it* as is.

At this writing I have three Mausers at the shop, all brought back to the U.S. by returning servicemen. One was manufactured in 1913, another in 1939, and the third in 1944. As usual, the oldest model is finished much more finely than the one made in 1939, and the 1944 model is still rougher. The stock on the 1913 rifle is far superior to the others—a nice piece of dark walnut of varying color, streaked with black lines. The 1939 model is stocked with very light-colored wood and the latest gun with plain but dark walnut. By giving suggestions for remodeling each of these rifles in such a way as to make them more practical for use in hunting and at the same time include only those alterations that can be done with a few generally available tools and little experience in gunsmithing, I hope to make these instructions applicable to any amateur.

The 7.9 mm. military Mauser (better known as the 8 mm.) handles a splendid big-game cartridge. It would be harder to place a bullet accurately at long range with a 7.9 than with some of our modern calibers because the German cartridge has a higher trajectory. In other words, the bullet drops faster. As loaded by our ammunition companies, it carries a 170 grain bullet at 2,530 foot-seconds and a 236 grain bullet at 2,100. The trajectory is not too important, however, and either bullet has ample power for deer if placed somewhere near where it should be, and the same is true of any game in this country larger than deer. It is not safe, however, for varmint shooting. The bullets will ricochet badly and are very dangerous in settled country. None of the military ammunition is of any use to the hunter and some of it, such as the armor-piercing load, is extremely dangerous. Better get some regular factory hunting loads and discard all issue stuff.



Ramp sight base should be installed before barrel is shortened. A string run from front sight through rear sight set for hundred yard range indicates proper height for new base.

Let's suppose now that you have a Mauser military rifle and

THE AUTHOR: *Morgan Holmes is a custom gunmaker, with a shop in Montvale, N. J. Explaining his reason for sticking to the simplest remodeling methods, he writes, "Many requests for jobs of this kind have come into my shop. I believe all of this work can be done with screwdrivers, files, a hack saw, a few drills, abrasive cloth, and some method of applying heat." Holmes has promised another article on building a "supersporter" from a bolt-action military rifle—Mauser or other type.*

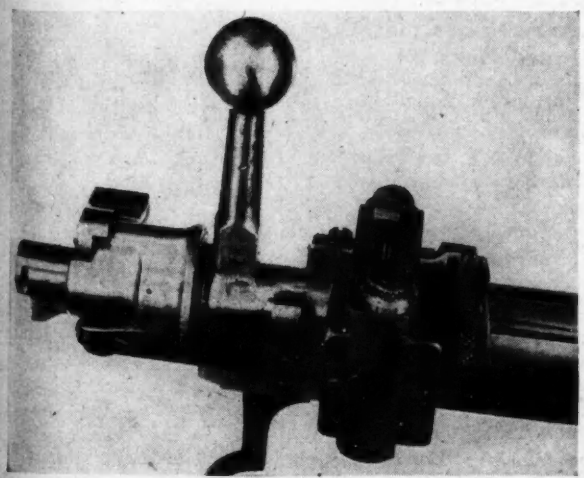
want to remodel it along more sporting lines. Perhaps the most necessary job will be to cut the stock down to sporting shape and dimensions, shorten the barrel of the older models to twenty-two or twenty-four inches, and install better sights. Of course, better sights can be fitted to the original rifle without any trouble. Both front and rear sights are made for this gun by any of our sight makers, and directions for attaching, with the necessary drills and taps, are supplied if specified.

Before any work is started (but *after* head space has been checked), it would be best to shoot the rifle at 100 yards from a sandbag or blanket rest. Test the gun by laying the fore-end on the chosen support, and hold and squeeze the trigger very carefully. If the group is small enough to do what you want in the hunting field, you are ready to go to work.

First, take off the stock and lay it aside. It is better to start with the metal work. If you have an old, long-barrel model, mark the barrel at the desired length, but do not cut it. Next, get a soft piece of steel about two and a half inches long and five-sixteenths to three-eighths inch thick, and three-quarters inch wide, for a ramp to hold the front sight. File the bottom edge to fit the curve of the barrel just back of where the cut is to be made. This may sound pretty difficult, but you'll find that cutting is not a hard job, and most of it can be accomplished with a rat-tail file. Fit it closely enough that it looks right to your eye and does not rock on the barrel. The edges must fit closely so no solder will show through the blueing.

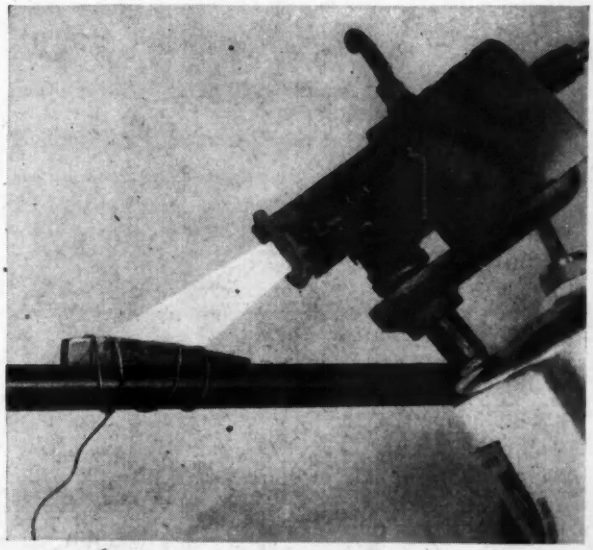
With the rifle sighted in at 100 yards, you can use the original sights as a guide in finding the correct position for the ramp and rear sight. Stretch a thread over the top of the front sight and through the notch in the rear sight. With this in place, set your ramp on the barrel and mark how far the ramp must be cut down to bring your front sight, when mounted on the ramp, to the same height as the thread. If any error occurs it is better to have the new front sight a little higher than the thread. There is plenty of elevation adjustment on all rear sights, so this can easily be adjusted for when re-sighting the rifle with the new sights.

Cut the ramp to shape with a hack saw and file a dovetail slot to accommodate the front sight. File and polish the ramp



Original military rear sight can be used, but a commercial sight is far more practical. Manufacturers supply directions and necessary screws and taps for mounting. To complete job, bolt on this action should be bent.

to a good finish and drive the sight to the center of the ramp. Clean the barrel where the ramp is to be fitted. Set it about three-eighths of an inch behind the mark you made for the barrel cut. Tin both the barrel and ramp; place the ramp on the barrel and align with the thread. Clamp the ramp to the barrel with a parallel clamp, and heat both parts until the solder



Ramp sight base can be sweated on barrel with ordinary blowtorch. Gun and sight base must be perfectly level. Clamp or wire wrapping holds ramp.

flows. Then let it cool. If you have chosen an ivory bead front sight, do not drive it into place until the ramp has been sweated, unless you can protect the bead from the heat. A gold bead will stand the heat without damage.

Now, take a hack saw and cut the barrel off where you originally marked it. Try to make a straight cut, and then file it up until it is square. Now, to "crown" the muzzle or, more important, to be certain that the inner edge of the muzzle is square with the bore. Get a brass ball about one-half inch in diameter. Coat it with valve-grinding compound and turn it in the muzzle. It must be spun or turned with the fingers until a seat has been made completely around the bore. After this has been done the barrel can be crowned on the inside curve with different size balls and on the outer curve with files, or it can be left flat. In any event, it should be polished with different grades of carborundum cloth until highly finished.

The Mauser sight can be removed as follows: Take off the screw at the rear of the sight base, and drive out the small pin located through the hinge of the elevation staff. Fold the staff down flat and press the forward end down and pull it back at the same time. As this is done, the staff will have to be raised enough for it to clear the base at the rear and allow it to be drawn back and out of its socket in the hinge. The spring can now be drawn out to the front. The base is sweated to the barrel; heat it until the solder runs, and tap it off toward the muzzle.

Now, for the stock: The wood that was on the top of the barrel we can throw away. Cut the fore-end off just about halfway up the barrel. Shape a walnut plug for the hole where the cleaning rod was inserted. Make this plug just a snug fit, but

After barrel is shortened, muzzle can be crowned with brass ball on end of drill-size rod. Various sizes of balls and abrasive compound will do neat job.

do not drive it in or the stock may split. When you have whittled it to the right size, coat the hole and the plug with Duco cement and push the plug into place. When dry, the plug can be dressed off and the fore-end shaped with files and sandpaper to suit your taste. The stock can also be rounded off on its upper edge along the barrel channel. Curve it in nicely to within about one-eighth inch of the barrel. Work *from the channel out* on both sides and blend the curve into the stock lines as you file from the top around the side. The pistol grip can also be thinned on the sides to advantage. But be careful: Do not change the upper stock line from the rear of the receiver to the comb.

The butt swivel on the old model is usually thrown into place carelessly, and looks it. The swivel can be taken off and the hole left by the base can be filled by inlaying. Either walnut, ebony, or black Bakelite can be used. Form the inlay to any shape you wish, being careful to keep it large enough to cover the whole recess. The inlay should be about one-quarter inch thick, with the sides tapering slightly toward the bottom. When the inlay is shaped, lay it over the recess and scribe a fine line around it, keeping the scriber tilted in at the point so that the marking will not be full size. Cut out the wood inside of the scribe lines with various chisels if you have them. If not, a sharp pocketknife and a small carpenter's chisel will do very nicely. Clean the inlay up on the sides and bottom, coat with lampblack, and spot it into place. Work very slowly and remove only the black marks left in the recess by the lampblack you applied to the bottom and sides of the inlay. When it is fitted as well as you can, glue it in place with Duco cement. Wrap ten or twelve turns of heavy cord over the inlay and around the stock, pull the cord tightly and let it set at least a week before the cord is taken off. The inlay can then be shaped to the contour of the stock. This same method of inlaying can be used to cover any other holes.

Another swivel may be wanted. If so, buy one that screws into the stock; it will be much easier to fit than one with a base. Be sure to drill a hole in the stock about the size of the center of the swivel screw, that is, the size of the screw inside of the threads. Use soap on the screw and it will turn in easily and still hold strongly enough. With few tools it may be possible to use the same type of swivel on the forearm. Be sure the hole is drilled to the correct size or the fore-end may split. A better front swivel would be one with a machine screw thread and a nut, although when the nut is let into the barrel channel you may run into trouble by cutting into the hole for the cleaning rod. The hole could be filled with Plastic Wood, and the nut set in this. *(To be concluded)*

Camp Perry — 1946!

(Continued from page 14)

In the meantime, the postwar tide of shooting has risen steadily during the first five months of 1946. Eight of the desired nine regional rifle championships have been set up and will have been fired before the Nationals get under way. Similarly, eight of the projected nine regional pistol championships are being fired this summer. NRA Official Referees attended 145 registered tournaments between January 1st and May 31st.

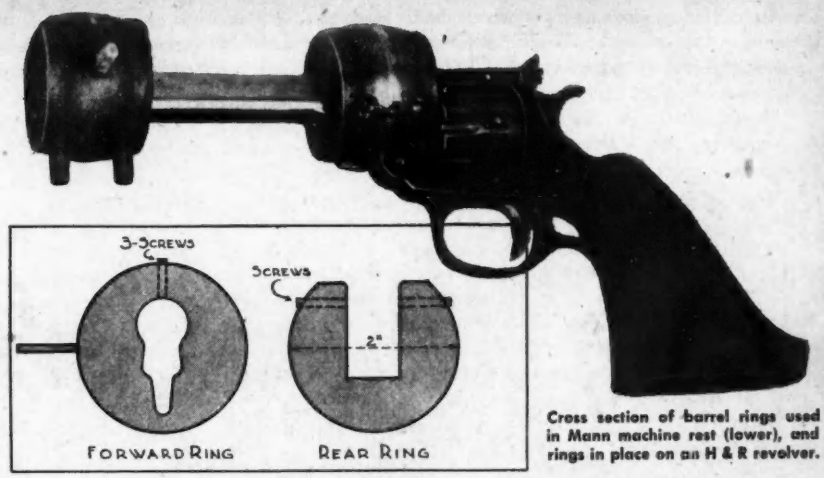
Four field offices have been operating during the first five months of this year. During that time, these field service men have traveled 27,000 miles in attending 230 club meetings, 26 tournaments, and filling 48 speaking engagements.

New senior clubs have been affiliated at an average of twenty-five each month, with the rate picking up to 45 during May. One hundred and eight new Class "A" clubs and seventeen new Class "B" clubs were added to the rolls between January and May. During the same five months, two hundred and fifteen new junior clubs were issued certificates of affiliation. On May 31st, there were 2,097 senior rifle and pistol clubs, 50 college clubs and 1,386 junior rifle clubs on the active rolls.

Individual members are being enrolled at a rate approximately two-and-one-half times the rate prevailing in 1945—which was something of a record breaker itself! This issue of the RIFLEMAN reaches a new all-time circulation peak of 140,000 copies.

Material shortages are hampering a great many range construction and range expansion projects. Paper shortages are limiting the production of targets to a hand-to-mouth basis. The shortage of rifles, handguns, and ammunition is keeping many interested people out of the game and is curtailing the shooting of hundreds of old-timers. The going isn't easy, but we are *going* nonetheless. On the strength of the progress made during the early months of 1946, in the face of the prevailing difficulties, the postwar success of the rifle and pistol game certainly seems assured. The plowing, planting, and weeding of the old-timers seems to be about to produce a magnificent crop! ◆ ◆ ◆

YOU MAY NOT AGREE . . . TAKING A CONTROVERSIAL SUBJECT AS HIS THESIS, PISTOLMAN RICE HAS SOME POINTED REMARKS TO MAKE ABOUT THE SHOOTING QUALITIES OF AMERICAN HANDGUNS



Cross section of barrel rings used in Mann machine rest (lower), and rings in place on an H & R revolver.

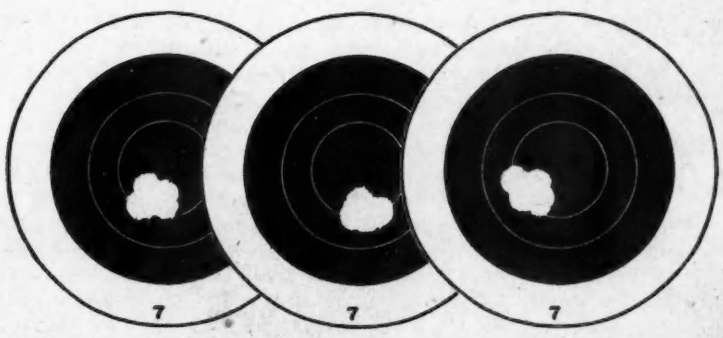
ACCURACY IN HANDGUNS

By GEORGE W. RICE

IN GOING THROUGH SOME BACK COPIES of sporting magazines in my magazine rack, as we all do at times, I became interested in rereading an article based on the assumption that all handguns are woefully weak in accuracy. This was blamed on the "fact" that the shooting public has not asked for anything better. The whole thing was summed up in this statement: "A very good machine rest can and will be developed when the handgun public demands better accuracy from guns and loads."

I mentioned this article to some of the old-timers at the Springfield (Massachusetts) Revolver Club, and was not surprised at the prompt reaction I received. The answers came in almost identical language: "Why, they build more accuracy in good handguns now than any shooter can hold. Certainly no one could ask for better machine rests than are available." These men are members of a first-rate team, and few groups are better qualified to give such an opinion. This positive difference of opinion made me wonder why so few shooters possess factual information about handguns, and why so many experienced sportsmen are misinformed. The answer seems to be that most present-day information comes from the terse statements found in advertising matter (which few read) rather than from informative, interesting articles on handgun performance in sporting magazines to be read by many.

I have shot every gun I owned from machine rests except the larger-caliber automatics and found only one, a .32 caliber that would not produce smaller than half-inch 5 shot groups at twenty yards. The only guns shot at a range of more than fifty yards were my two .38 S & W revolvers which made machine-rest groups of an inch at 100 yards, with none larger than three inches. I have on many occasions helped Col. Roy D. Jones, formerly ballistician for Smith & Wesson, make machine-rest tests on both club and factory handguns. Ninety out of every hundred tested in .22, .38, and .44 calibers



These groups, fired from machine rest at 20 yards, are about average for a good factory made American handgun. Groups were fired from .357 S&W "Magnum," serial 0356, taken from stock.

THE AUTHOR: *Speaking of his shooting background, George Rice says, "Forty-five years of experimenting, match shooting, hunting and experience at Camp Perry have provided me with a background against which to evaluate the performance of handguns. I have owned and shot S&W, Colt and H&R revolvers and pistols in almost every caliber for which they are made." Apropos of hunting, author Rice tells us he once dropped a running deer at 135 yards with a .38 revolver. When not shooting, Rice is city treasurer of Springfield, Massachusetts.*

did as well as my own guns. Without doubt these three calibers are the most accurate of the handguns, followed by the .32 caliber and larger automatics in that order. Unlike the larger automatics, the .22 Auto makes many fine groups.

The machine rest I used is of the old Mann type. Simple, but effective, it is still in use by some concerns in this country. The rest is made from an iron block two feet long, five inches wide, and three inches high, with a V-shaped cut one-and-a-half inches deep, made the long way, and with the whole thing anchored firmly to a heavy base. All pistols and revolvers are held by two rings, weighing about two pounds each. One is fastened on the barrel at the sight, and the other at the extreme rear of the gun. The gun is then set in the rest upside down and the trigger pulled by squeezing a bulb in the same manner that a camera is often operated. The rings

Machine rest used at Smith and Wesson plant for revolver accuracy tests. Recoil drives revolver up and back, approximating action when fired by hand from normal shooting position. Weights can be moved to compensate for recoil of various calibers, including heaviest .357 loads in S & W Magnum.

holding the gun are nearly one-and-one-half inches wide, but the face is convex and only a small part of the ring touches the side of the V, minimizing the amount of friction as the gun recoils. After each shot, the blocks are replaced in their original positions, and great care is used in order to achieve uniformity.

The ingenious machine rest used at the S & W factory is the result of many years of experience and a need for saving time. The gun is held on the upper end of a metal lever which swings freely on a pin at the lower end. As the arm is fired, the recoil drives the gun back much as if it were held by hand; that is, with the muzzle pointing upwards at the end of the backward thrust. The recoil is checked by weights hung on a light steel rod. These weights are moved outward or inward to compensate for the recoil of different calibers. A picture of this rest is shown, and should promptly disprove the need for new machine rests. Its value to the factory has taken on added importance since the advent of the new .357 S & W Magnum which develops more muzzle energy than those old rifle favorites, the .38-40 and .44-40, or the more modern .32 and .35 Winchester self-loading cartridges. While I have mentioned only S & W factory equipment, I know from talks with the late Henry Fitzgerald of the Colt factory that they also are fully equipped to produce groups similar to the ones mentioned. Experience with these rests will prove to any fair-minded man that our factories have not been lax in the matter of developing and improving accuracy.

While machine-rest tests show the mechanical accuracy which it is possible to build into pistols and revolvers, we must not come to the erroneous conclusion that the machine rest is the final test of potential accuracy for offhand shooting. Granted that it has proved the accuracy of the barrel and to a large extent the lining up of the cylinder with the barrel. However, that is not the entire answer. Shooters do not buy guns to shoot in a rest, and the results when shot by hand are even more important. The rest does *not* prove balance, trigger pull, hammer fall, or the absolutely perfect lining up of the cylinder with the barrel, all of which are important in offhand shooting. If the trigger pull is uneven, you lose accuracy. If the hammer hits or rubs on one side of the frame as it falls, there is a slight jar that will flip the muzzle enough to cause a wide shot. If the bullet does not center on entering the barrel, the shot will also be off on the target. Such trouble will not show up in guns held solidly in a machine rest.

This last objection might be classed as a defect of adjustment rather than as a defect of design, and probably accounts for a feeling long existing that a pistol is much more accurate than a revolver. The fact that each cartridge in the cylinder of a revolver has to turn around until it is in line with the bore is supposed to create considerable inaccuracy by scraping or disfiguring the bullet whenever the opening of the cylinder and barrel do not line up perfectly. While the theory is correct, the expected inaccuracy does not appear too prominently in new, well-made guns, for the barrels of both S & W and Colt revolvers are slightly enlarged at the rear. The cylinders are held so accurately that it becomes all but impossible for a bullet to be off-center enough to exceed this slight enlargement at the rear of the barrel. It should be clear, then, that the only source of inaccuracy here will be from a greater or lesser pressure of the bullet on one side of the barrel or the other as it moves into the opening. It is equally clear that such a force will disturb the aim less and less as the weight of the gun is increased.

Our biggest factories handle this problem differently. Both methods prove very effective. Smith & Wesson hold their cylinders at both front and rear, and each cartridge when pushed into place is held by an individual stop at the proper spot. The factory claims watchlike precision and makes a slight enlargement in the rear of the barrel. The Colt cylinder has slightly more freedom, and they make a larger funnel into the rear of their barrels to compensate. Both of these systems work effectively in their respective guns, completely disproving the theory that design features of cylinder alignment cause poor shooting. Any inaccuracy creeping in after this treatment is so slight that, from a practical standpoint, it is non-existent.

To digress from the subject of accuracy for a moment, it might prove a great boon to the shooting fraternity if our arms manufacturers would, if necessary, develop new methods for alignment of cylinder and barrel so that a man standing in a firing line would not be subjected to the dose of lead and powder particles sometimes delivered by his neighbor's gun. This spray can cause a serious handicap to a fellow shooter. Revolver manufacturers may have licked the problem of accuracy, but that is not enough. It is fair to assume that with further study and care manufacturers could build both accuracy and comfort for fellow shooters into all their guns.

There is still a third point to be checked. A gun may shoot all makes of ammunition well, but one make will be just a

(*Continued on page* 35)

Speaking of SHOTGUNS

By FRANCIS E. SELL

IN SPITE OF THE EXPERTS, SELECTING THAT "ALL-AROUND" SCATTERGUN IS STILL LARGELY A MATTER OF THE GUNNER'S PERSONAL PREFERENCES

WHEN RIFLES AND SHOTGUNS come up for discussion, someone is almost certain to remark that rifle shooting is a science, while shotgunning is an art. There may be some esoteric reason for the distinction, but if there is it has always escaped me. The rifleman who snaps a shot at a fast-disappearing whitetail is no more scientific than a man snapping a shot at a ruffed grouse. The only difference is that there are more things which the hunter can do to his shotgun after he misses.

The rifleman may be soberly reflective as he trudges toward camp, but his soul searching is more personal than that of the shotgun hunter. There is little he can do to his rifle except to give it a test on a range. But the shotgunner knows that if he had been shooting a different pattern he would have made a kill. His head is full of ideas and plans about what he is going to do to his shotgun before taking it afield again.

These plans usually call for more open patterns, regardless of the degree of choke the gun may have. This thinning of patterns is only a shortening of the effective range, a poor manner of increasing the effectiveness of the gun. Impersonal consideration of the setup will show how little the opening of a pattern can accomplish in the way of clean killing. A shotgun which will throw 70 per cent patterns into a thirty-inch circle at forty yards is not going to miss at any range from twenty-five to forty-five yards because of thin patterns. For my money, most of the present-day game is killed within these ranges.

Under certain specialized conditions a thinning of the pattern to get more spread may be desirable. But going from a full choke to a 60 or 68 per cent pattern is about the limit. Thinner patterns will cancel out the range to an undesirable extent. And in shortening the range, if the gun is to remain as effective as before, the game must be taken closer to the gunner. This, obviously, calls for a lighter, faster-handling gun.

Unfortunately, we cannot do this without sacrificing certain desirable features of the heavier, longer-barreled shotguns. The tendency of the average gunner to use maximum loads militates against light guns. Then, too, there is the ever-present problem of patterns to be considered.

It is not unreasonable to suppose that where the shot charge is still being rapidly accelerated as it leaves the muzzle of a short-barreled gun, the high gas pressure coming at this point will cause more blown patterns than in the longer barrels. What about weight? If a gunner decides that the ideal weight of his shotgun should be six and a half pounds, he has several alternatives in arriving at this weight. Any of the three standard gauges can be made to conform. The 12, obviously, would have to have short tubes, have plenty of wood taken out of the stock, and the grips thinned. Still staying within the six-and-a-half-pound limitation, the 16 gauge could carry thirty-inch tubes instead of the twenty-six-inch barrels of the six-and-a-half-pound 12. With the 20 gauge, the gunner could have thirty-inch tubes and yet be below that weight limit of six-and-a-half pounds by at least a half pound.

Which of these combinations would be the fastest? Speed, of course, must be wedded to accurate gun pointing or else it loses its effectiveness. The more accurate gun pointing would be done with the longer-barreled guns, and where the weight is the same I doubt that it could be proved that a twenty-six-inch barrel will drop flushed game with any more dispatch than the longer-tubed guns.

If a gunner can get on the target at twenty-five yards due to handling a twenty-six-inch 12 gauge, the 16 and 20 with four inches more barrel can cover that same target within that time limit. The only advantage of the 12 is that it will throw a heavier shot charge than the lighter gauges. Some of this advantage is legitimate, but if the 12 is kept within that six-and-a-half-pound limit I doubt that the heavier shot charge is going to help the gunner to an appreciable extent. The recoil is too punishing with the maximum loads usually taken afield.

The conventional choke for most upland gunning is usually

THE AUTHOR: *From a lifetime of hunting in the game-rich Northwest, Francis E. Sell has drawn a wide range of experience in the practical, go-out-and-try-it-yourself varieties of powder burning. He writes: "Speaking of hunting, I think I broke some kind of record last year. I started hunting when the deer season opened, hunted straight through the elk season, then upland birds, and finished up on ducks the first of the year." Sell lives on a ranch near Riverton, Oregon.*

40 and 45 per cent, first and second barrels. This combination gives an advantage of range of about five yards to the second barrel. Pump and auto guns are usually bored cylinder, and all are a trifle too open, with few specialized exceptions, for really effective use on upland game.

The present-day gunner must take his shots at wilder game and longer ranges. Is closer choking of bores the answer? There is a shotgun tradition that it is easier to hit with open-bored guns. To some extent this is true, but it is not nearly so important as skilled gun pointing. There is little logic to support the theory that one can overcome lack of skill by shooting a wide, open pattern. The correct lead on a pheasant with a full-choked gun is going to kill. An incorrect lead is going to miss. Opening the pattern can correct for only a small amount of the actual error of improper lead.

Sometimes in heavy cover the gunner is tossing his pattern at a hole in the brush which is much less than forty inches in diameter. It is the shot which gets *through* that hole which must be depended upon to kill. A very small screening of brush will stop 7½'s, 7's, and even the heavier 6's. A full-choke pattern may be broken up to where, in point of effectiveness, it is a ragged modified pattern when it reaches the bird, barely retaining enough density to make a clean kill. If the gunner had started with a modified pattern at the muzzle, it would be highly probable that the screening brush of the heavy upland cover would have so thinned it that it would reach the target without enough density to kill cleanly.

Of course, many of the old-time market hunters had their day when there was nothing but cylinder bores to shoot. They overcame the lack of choke by shooting large gauges with extremely heavy charges of shot. But when the process of choking was discovered, it wasn't many years before the

cylinder-bored gun was off the marsh and out of the upland covers as far as the market gunner was concerned.

If these, the most skilled field shots the world has ever known, felt the need for full, dense patterns, it seems logical to suppose that such patterns have much to recommend them to present-day gunners.

I am thinking of two brothers who used to hunt for the market. At the time, one used a double L. C. Smith, full choked, thirty-inch barrel. The other used a 97 Winchester pump, full choked with thirty-inch barrel. They never, during their entire careers as market hunters, used anything except full-choked guns. Even during summer shooting on bandtail pigeons and ruffed grouse, they never felt the need for more open patterns.

On one occasion they had a special order to fill which called for seventy-five snipe. They took two boxes of shells each. During the morning's shooting, they bagged eighty-seven snipe. No attempt was made to keep track of the individual kill. Their dog, wise old canine that he was, brought the game to whichever of the hunters was near. One of the brothers, however, told me he made two or three runs of nine straight before missing. He remembered this because his brother had made a run of ten straight without a miss, and he was trying to equal it. When they finished shooting, they had "a few, maybe three or four shells," left between them.

Their ammunition was all handloaded, the empties being purchased along with black powder and shot, and the shells loaded during the evening after hunting. Brass cases were used in the double as they could easily be recovered after firing. Paper shells were used in the pump as many were lost on ejection. About an ounce of shot was used in a load, never more than an ounce and an eighth.

What they were using in point of effectiveness were modern 20 gauges. The only difference was that they had shorter shot columns in the larger bores. This, theoretically, should give less shot deformation with a more even pattern. Actually, however, these guns were little if any more effective than a modern 20 gauge. In this screwy business of shotgun shooting, a 20 often equals a 12, just as a 12 will sometimes give 10 gauge performance.

Usually, in listing the effective range of the different gauges, they are placed something like this: 12 gauge up to fifty-two yards, 16 gauge up to forty-eight yards, 20 gauge up to forty-five yards. This is with full-choked guns, of course.

Now, it would seem logical that if one's shooting were at the extreme range of fifty yards, the only possible selection would be the 12 gauge. As a rule this would hold true, but there are exceptions. There are times when the gauges do not stay neatly catalogued. A 20 gauge may get over into the fifty-yard class, just as occasionally the 12 is found to be a sixty-yard gun without overboring or the use of Magnum loads.

Recently I shot some tests with a 20 gauge, not on the conventional pattern board, but at the outline of a flying duck. I wanted to know the extreme range at which this gun would put three or more shots into the target consistently. The test determined this distance as fifty-two yards. At this range it put from three to five shots in the target, shot after shot.

I used this gun for duck hunting almost exclusively during the season. I shot over decoys, used it for pass shooting and did a great deal of jump shooting in the willow-covered marshes. This last type of shooting may not be familiar to some eastern duck hunters, so a word of explanation may not be amiss. Jump hunting in Oregon has many elements of still-hunting deer. One must work his way through the willows of the flooded marshes, flush the birds out of the sheltering potholes, and get a shot as they skyrocket up between the trees.

Most shots must be taken as the birds are rising steeply to clear the willows. Once they have gained the top of the brush,

they level off and are out of sight in an instant. Teal, mallard, and sprig are the usual variety found in the sheltering willows.

Sometimes it is an accomplishment just to get close enough to see the birds go out, much less get a shot. What shooting a gunner obtains, however, is not extremely long range as a rule. The average shot is taken at around forty yards, and where the birds are towering to get over the willows the second and third shots may not be at much greater distance.

My 20 gauge paid off on this type of shooting, being, I believe, superior to the heavier 12's and equal to the lighter 16's, if not superior to this gauge. In the duck blinds there were days when it equalled the performance of the 12 or 16 gauge. These were the days when the ducks decoyed well, and most of the shooting was within forty to forty-five yards. On other days it would lag behind the performance of a good 12 gauge, full-choked gun. These days were usually marked by clear, blue bird-weather, with the ducks coming just into the fringe of the killing range of the 12. Fifty to fifty-five yards was the average shot obtained.

In pass shooting on the dunes along the coast in southwestern Oregon, the birds are moved only by severely stormy weather. They come over at about forty to forty-five yards range, driven by a chinook wind. This type of shooting requires that the gunner get on his target fast, as the birds will flare when the shooter stands up to take his shot. Turning, they streak cross wind to gain the security of more elevation, becoming almost impossible targets in the process.

A few days, perhaps a third of the time, a heavier, longer-range gun would have paid off, but during the rest of the time the 20 was at least the equal of heavier guns.

I had the advantage of a long, sighting plane in the slender thirty-inch barrel and in addition I had less weight to contend with. The gun weighed in the neighborhood of six-and-a-half pounds. Gauges and loads, incidentally, are definitely limited by weight. A 12 gauge should weigh at least seven-and-a-half pounds, the 16 not less than six-and-five-eighths, and the 20 not less than six-and-a-half.

The advantage of speedy gun handling in the field should never be overlooked by the gunner. But usually he must not expect 20 gauge performance from a 12 gauge. Unless he wants to go to an ounce loading in the 12, he cannot reduce the weight enough that it will handle like a 20.

To some extent, the relation of gun weight to load reduces all gauges to a common denominator, and there is little the hunter can do about it. If, on an average, the 20 gauge is a forty-five-yard gun, the 16 a forty-eight, and the 12 in the fifty-yard class, there is little to recommend the 12 unless the average range is beyond that of the 20. The lighter, faster-handling 20 will get on the game three or four yards closer to the gun. The longer range of the 12 is used in overcoming the handicap of weight which it must carry to shoot comfortably. It all depends on what the gunner considers important, speed in getting on the game, or range once he is on the mark.

In these days of intense hunting, with the game being constantly educated by an army of hunters, I am inclined to compromise in my guns. I want speed and I also want as much range as I can get. For me, this has worked out as a 20 gauge with a full thirty-inch barrel. This gun will pattern close to 90 per cent with Number 6 shot, and 77 per cent with 7½'s at forty yards.

These patterns, incidentally, hardly conform with the theory of shot deformation which is supposed to take place in the smaller gauges. Ordinarily, 30 per cent loss is considered about right for a 20 gauge. But if we had that much deformation, it would be hard to get anything over a 65 or 70 per cent pattern. It would seem obvious that the greater loss of shot in a full-choked gun would be those deformed in the tight choke, and these would not reach the pattern board at forty yards. Still there are occasional 90 per cent patterns thrown by guns in all the gauges.

I do not feel handicapped shooting a full-choked, thirty-inch-barreled 20, either in the duck marshes or in the upland game covers. I find it fitting in with more gunning situations than the more open-bored arms. It has solved many of my gunning problems. Of course, I realize that other gunners confronted with about the same problems have solved them in other ways. After all, the payoff is in the field, in the duck blind—wherever a gunner carries a shotgun. Maybe next hunting season will give entirely different answers. I may have an entirely different set of guns next season. In this uncertain business of shotgun shooting, things often happen that way. ◆ ◆ ◆

Hollow Points

(*Continued from page* 12)

round-nosed soft points in the magazine. On the other hand, if the game is apt to be deer or sheep or antelope, then the magazine and rifle chamber is kept loaded with the long Spitzer stuff and a change made (if there is time) when I run into an elk or something heavier.

For extreme penetration, the plain soft-nosed bullet is to be preferred to the hollow point. It is more reliable. And paradoxically, the soft nose will usually expand at longer ranges than will the hollow point. But as long as velocity is maintained, the hollow point is the more destructive. Hollow points must be kept clean and free of dirt and other foreign matter as it is the trapped air in the cavity that ruptures the bullet. The more liquid tissue, fluid or blood they strike, the more complete their expansion and the more destructive their work.

Once a big King salmon showed his back above water about 100 yards off. The temptation was just too great. I hit him with a 172-grain Western Tool and Cartridge Company hollow point backed by 64 grains of du Pont 15½ powder. The bullet hit the water an inch or two before it hit the salmon, and it ended up just under the skin on the off side. The water sure slowed that slug.

A bullet cannot, at the same time, be a compromise and be the best for penetration *and* expansion at any and all ranges on all kinds of game animals. The arms and ammunition industry has done, and is doing, the best it can to provide what the hunter needs and what he thinks he needs. But, unfortunately, the manufacturers are limited by the physical properties of the various materials with which they are working. The hunter must use the gray matter with which Nature endowed him, in this as in all things. He can't expect the impossible. ◆ ◆ ◆

COMMON SENSE APPLIED TO—

Internal Ballistics

By C. C. MEREDITH

(Summing up this important series to date, neither altering case shape radically nor increasing the powder capacity by about 18 per cent has altered the burning characteristic of the powder, has not improved appreciably the pressure/velocity ratio, nor increased the muzzle velocity in a ratio out of proportion to the increase in propellant used. The inference is, then, that chamber shape does not matter a great deal aside from ease of manufacture and satisfactory functioning in the mechanism of the arm.)

CONCLUSION

IN ANY SERIES OF EXPERIMENTS, it is first necessary to firmly establish what we wish to determine, and why we wish to do it. In this instance, we have two types of cartridge case, one being of a type which lends itself to relatively easy production, offers no great problem in handloading, and, when loaded, functions well in standard, bolt-action, box-magazine arms. The other type is more difficult to produce, and frequently must be formed to final shape either by firing or by hydraulic expansion; when formed, it usually does not function well from the box-magazine of a bolt-action repeater, due to the sharp shoulder and straight or nearly parallel body sides. In reloading, the more conventional shape is easier to handle, since the relatively sloping shoulder provides perfect support for the neck in resizing, and also provides the necessary support against the pressure required to seat the bullet. On the other hand, cases with shoulder angles greater than about thirty degrees (referred to the center line) or with concave shoulders (Venturi type), have a pronounced tendency to swallow their own neck and shoulders (especially after neck annealing) under the pressure of neck sizing or bullet seating.

To sum up, we have one type of case which is quite practical to manufacture, use, and reload. On the other hand, we have one which is not so easy to handle mechanically, but which may provide ballistic properties which are great enough to offset the purely mechanical drawbacks. The measure of ballistic advantage is taken as the ratio of pressure to velocity, and since this ratio is governed by size of powder cavity, our experiment must directly compare two or more shapes of chamber all of identical powder capacity, so that the results may be compared directly without any assumptions or calculations.

Since forcement, which is materially affected by throating and bore dimensions, could introduce a discrepancy if it is not identical in each experiment, it was decided to perform the entire experiment in one rifle barrel. In order to provide the same neck clearance over the seated bullet, all cases used were neck sized and reamed in the same neck-sizing die. A system of interchangeable chambers was devised, all fitting accurately to the breech end of the same barrel. In order to provide a gas seal, about one-half of the neck length was cut into the barrel. The chambering reamers used to cut the various chambers were all precision ground to the same neck diameter; this, together with reaming the cases for all chambers in the same necking die made certain that no variation could be caused by any variation in neck clearance.

To make the experiment complete, three of these interchangeable chambers were made, each for a different shape of case, (see Figure 1), but all designed to have the same powder space. Two chambers were made based upon the .303 British case, these two being, excepting for shoulder shape and neck length, exact duplicates in every dimension. One chamber was given a thirty-five-degree shoulder angle, the other a curved shoulder of 0.1-inch radius, the shoulder being joined to the body with a reverse radius of about 0.03 inch. The thirty-five-degree angle was chosen for the former because this most nearly duplicated the chordal angle of the reverse curve of the other. The .35 W.C.F. case was chosen as the basis of the third case, because its body diameter at the under head is quite close to the similar dimension of the .303 case. This third case was made to a profile somewhat like the "Zipper," having quite a pronounced body taper and a fourteen-degree shoulder angle. After the three chambers were cut to nearly the finished depth, one cartridge case was made for each and fired in its appropriate chamber. The cubic capacity of each was then carefully determined, and the chambering reamers again used to bring all three to the same cubic capacity, within about 0.1 per cent or better. This was checked by firing the same three cases, each in its own chamber, after which the three cases were numbered for identification and set aside for the actual test. The entire test of sixty rounds was fired with these three cases, twenty shots each. In this way any possible variation due to variation in brass thickness from case to case was entirely eliminated. During the course of the test, neck

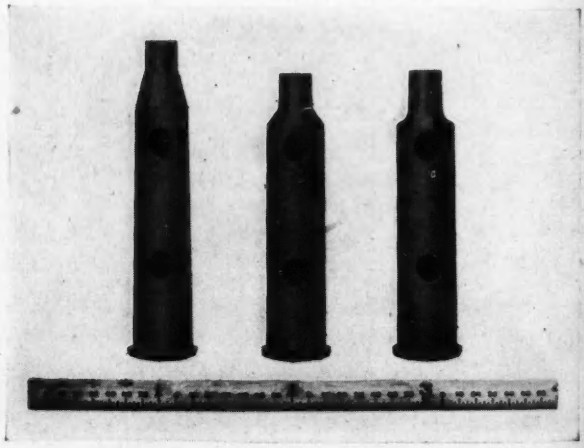


Figure 1—Meredith's experimental .35 W.C.F. case, the .303 British with 35 degree shoulder slope, and the reverse curve shoulder .303.

thickness was gauged periodically and corrected when necessary by resorting to the common neck-reaming die.

In this test, we are comparing shapes only, all other variables other than the slight unavoidable variation in primers being eliminated. Powder charges were all weighed to within one pellet of powder, the bullets were all taken from one lot recently received from one of our best makers, and were first selected for weight to within one part in 360, after which they were all adjusted to within one part in 3000. The bullets used were of rather strong construction, thus minimizing deformation which might vary with seating pressure. After the preliminary test for powder capacity, the seating depth was checked very carefully, in order to insure the same bullet jump in each chamber, and the final cubic capacity determination of the three cases was made with the bullets all seated to the standardized depth which was to be used in the test. The primers used were of recent manufacture, and were all taken from the same packet.

No weight check was made on them, because we do not believe that such a check has any real value, since the priming composition represents a comparatively small part of the total weight, and no method presents itself, before firing, of determining the weight of the other and heavier parts. The powders used were all of recent manufacture, the oldest being the stock of 4350.

From this account of the preparation for the experiment, it will be realized that every precaution was taken to eliminate every variable which might produce a misleading result, and to assure that any conclusions based upon the test would be a true picture of the result of a change in shape in terms of our performance factor P/V.

In order to secure as much data as possible, the interchangeable chambers were all provided with two pressure gauge holes, one five-eighths inch and the other one and nine-sixteenths inch, forward of the rim seat. The rear position was occupied by the crusher-gauge piston, the forward by that of the electric gauge. Thus, both types of record were obtained for each round fired. The tabulated results following have been based upon the crusher-gauge records, since this method is more familiar to most people. Before

TABLE 1—RECAPITULATION, 20 ROUNDS EACH CHAMBER

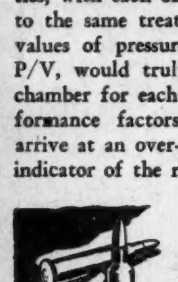
Ref.	Wt. Gms.	Powder	△	.22–.35–14° Vel.	.22–.35–14° Press.	.22–.303–35° Vel.	.22–.303–35° Press.	.22–.303V Vel.	.22–.303V Press.
30B,65, 85	1.785	4198, Lot 21C	0.50	3057	31900	2985	30400	3003	32150
31, 51, 71	1.950	" "	0.55	3260	37840	3223	36400	3287	39900
32, 52, 72	2.175	" "	0.61	3580	50200	3486	45600	3492	46200
2, 12, 22	2.315	" "	0.65	3725	56200	3686	53680	3672	52960
		Totals—		13572	176140	13380	166080	13454	171210
		Averages—		3393	44035	3345	41520	3338	42802
		Performance Factor (P/v)		12.9		12.4		12.8	
33, 53, 73	2.210	3031, Lot 66C.	0.62	3273	31850	3228	32900	3247	32600
34, 54, 74	2.353	" "	0.66	3428	37250	3430	37980	3437	38100
4, 14, 24	2.585	" "	0.725	3746	46640	3697	46040	3719	45600
35, 55, 75	2.673	" "	0.75	3836	50060	3857	52600	3813	51600
		Totals—		14283	165800	14212	169520	14216	167900
		Averages—		3571	41450	3553	42380	3554	41975
		Performance Factor (P/v)		11.6		11.9		11.8	
36, 56, 76	2.495	4320, Lot 9C	0.70	3368	38220	3362	37500	3283	34480
37, 57, 77	2.602	" "	0.73	3393	39900	3404	38350	3435	38140
38, 58, 78	2.745	" "	0.77	3646	46240	3600	43400	3619	43160
45, 68, 86	2.925	" "	0.82	3860	54400	3966	52040	3813	54400
		Totals—		14267	178760	14332	171290	14150	170180
		Averages—		3567	44665	3583	42822	3537	42545
		Performance Factor (P/v)		12.5		12.0		12.0	
39, 59, 79	2.495	4064, Lot 24C	0.70	3497	39980	3402	34440	3368	35880
40, 60, 80	2.602	" "	0.73	3581	41120	3517	37860	3575	41440
41, 61, 81	2.745	" "	0.77	3742	46040	3673	42920	3783	45480
46, 67, 87	2.925	" "	0.82	4007	54120	3967	52040	3971	54400
		Totals—		14827	181260	14559	167260	14697	177200
		Averages—		3707	45315	3639	41815	3674	44300
		Performance Factor (P/v)		12.2		11.5		12.1	
9, 19, 29	2.675	4350, Lot 5	0.75	3230	33000	3168	31700	3200	32000
42, 62, 82	2.850	" "	0.80	3430	34850	3429	39680	3370	38100
43, 63, 83	3.172	" "	0.89	3828	49560	3825	49720	3838	49320
44, 64, 84	3.280	" "	0.92	3985	55720	4000	55800	3963	54320
		Totals—		14473	173130	14422	176900	14371	173740
		Averages—		3618	43282	3607	44225	3593	43435
		Performance Factor (P/v)		12.0		12.3		12.1	

TABLE 2—SUMMARY OF AVERAGE PERFORMANCE

	.22–.35–14° P	V	P/v	.22–.303–35° P	V	P/v	.22–.303 V P	V	P/v
IMR 4198 Lot 21C	44000	3395	12.95	41500	3350	12.40	42800	3340	12.80
" 3031 " 66C	41400	3570	11.60	42400	3550	11.95	42000	3555	11.80
" 4320 " 9C	44700	3565	12.55	42800	3585	11.95	42500	3535	12.00
" 4064 " 24C	45300	3705	12.25	41800	3640	11.50	44300	3675	12.05
" 4350 " 5	43300	3620	11.95	44200	3605	12.25	43400	3595	12.05
Overall Average Round	43800	3570		42600	3545		43000	3545	
Average Overall Performance Factor P/v		12.25			12.00			12.15	
Mean Value of the Three Overall Performance Factors		12.14							
% Departure from Mean		+1.07%			−0.98%			−0.08%	

making up the tables the two sets of records were checked against each other, and found to be consistent throughout.

In drawing up the shooting program, it was decided to fire four rounds in each chamber at four different loading densities, with each of five powders. Each chamber was subjected to the same treatment throughout in order that the average values of pressure and velocity, when reduced to the ratio P/V, would truly portray the average performance of that chamber for each powder. By taking the average of the performance factors of each chamber with all powders, we arrive at an over-all performance factor which is a very good indicator of the relative efficiency of each. Table 1 gives the shot-by-shot record of the entire series; Table 2 summarizes the average performance figures (pressure, velocity, and performance factor) for each chamber with each powder included in the test, and gives the over-all average P/V values, terminating with the percentage deviation of each from the mean of the three. In compiling the summary in Table 2, the pressure figures have been rounded off to the nearest hundred pounds, and the velocity averages to the nearest five foot-seconds, the P/V ratios to the nearest 0.05.



Reviewing these tables, it will be seen that, in general, there is absolutely nothing to choose between the three chamber shapes from the viewpoint of ability to produce a higher velocity at a given pressure. It is true that there is a difference of about plus or minus 1 per cent in the final, over-all, performance factors, but anyone having laboratory experience with measurements of the type involved in this test will realize that in spite of elaborate precautions, the accumulated experimental error can seldom be reduced to less than about the percentage of difference in these results. This also applies to the variation of from 11.5 to 12.9 in the P/V ratios of the various powder groups. Undoubtedly many of the variations are due directly to the small variation in primers, and to the not very precise methods available for pressure measurement.

Since the two necked-down .303 cases are so similar, and since one has an 0.1-inch shoulder radius and the other a shoulder curve of infinite radius (a straight line is equivalent to a segment of a circle having infinite radius), the theory that any variation of curvature between these limits in shoulder radius, has great ballistic merit, becomes entirely untenable. Likewise, the close agreement of both with the performance of the longer case made from the .35 W.C.F., with its sloping body and fourteen-degree shoulder angle, completely confirms our preliminary experiment and the conclusions of our "common-sense" analysis. In Figure 2 (upper row) is reproduced three oscillograph records of identical rounds in the three chambers with Δ 0.82 of 4320 powder, and in Figure 2 (lower row) three rounds likewise in the three chambers with Δ 0.92 of 4350. There is a slight timing error of the oscillograph noticeable in some of these records, causing the beginning of the trace to appear at the right-hand side, but it will be seen that practically no difference exists in either set of time-pressure curves. There is a slight difference in pressure indicated, which is consistent with the corresponding crusher-gauge records; the rate of pressure rise, rate of pressure decline and burning time show no significant difference, and the index of total force, which is the area beneath the time-pressure curve, varies between records in about the same ratio as does the recorded velocity of the bullet. When it is considered that with a given diameter of bullet, a variation of 0.001 inch in bore dimensions, or conversely, with a given barrel, a change of 0.001 inch in bullet diameter, can alone alter the peak pressure by as much as 15 per cent, and that a change in throating in the *same barrel* can reduce pressure by about the same percentage, there does not appear to be any point in using any particular chamber form for the sake of a paltry 1 or 2 per cent. Our laboratory records contain specific cases where the above-mentioned changes in bullet diameter and throating produce pressure variations of the order of that mentioned, i.e. 15 per cent, and the corresponding change in velocity in both instances was less than 3 per cent.

In conclusion then, we must arrive at the conviction that any variation in pressure-to-velocity ratio ensuing from any alteration in chamber shape is negligible as compared to other purely mechanical changes, such as altering bullet diameter, wear in the throat, and many other possible differences between any two apparently identical rifles. We must therefore inevitably reach the studied conclusion that the slightest mechanical unsoundness in the design of a case, resulting from the use of any unconventional shape so far advocated, is ample ground alone for rejecting that design in favor of a form not subject to the defect in question ♦ ♦ ♦

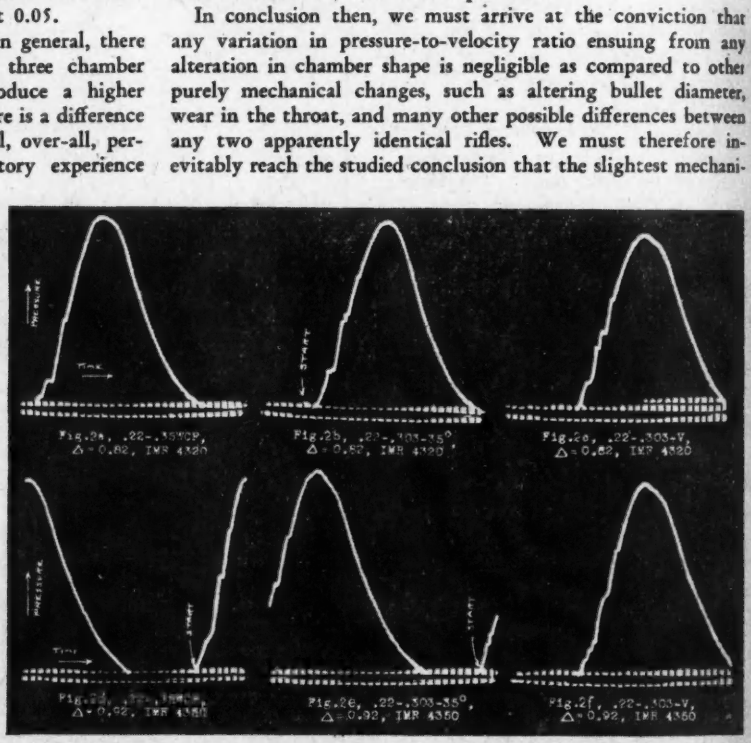


Figure 2—Oscillograph records of identical rounds in the three chambers. Those in upper row were loaded with same quantities of 4320 powder, and in lower row with identical charges of 4350. Broken lines of two curves in lower left were caused by timing error in oscillograph.

Around-the-Corner Guns

(*Continued from page* 17)

The thirty-degree barrel dropped downward and had an excellent and sturdy prismatic sight. Across the front of the prisms was a welded blade with a simple "V" notch. A regular blade sight was mounted on the muzzle of the bent barrel, giving a sight radius of only eight inches. It was fitted with a threaded cup base to handle the standard prerifled grenades. Our tests showed that with this grenade launcher on the muzzle, it acted as a perfect flash hider.

With this unit, a soldier could sit or lie inside of a barricade, poke the muzzle with its sight over the top, and be safe from rifle and machine-gun fire. Three of our boys tried it, wearing both U. S. and German helmets. In any position, the top of their helmets was a minimum of eight inches below the top of the barricades—and I've used it with the top of mine more than twenty-four inches down.

Had the Germans had this available when we were pushing them around, it is shuddering to think what might have happened to our casualty list. The prismatic field of view is without magnification, and an entire street can be observed. A rifleman could not crawl sufficiently close to erase the sniper with a grenade; we would have lost many a man before mortar fire dislodged the source of trouble.

Can you hit anything with it?

The writer recalls telling General Saylor that he could hit a letterhead three times out of five shots at 100 meters (110 yards).

"I don't believe it!" the Chief said, more to himself than to me. He wanted to be shown.

The General didn't bring a letterhead to the range, so we used a one-gallon Prestone can, somewhat smaller, and a lousy target in the shadows. I hit it twice, and then General Saylor tried it. His first shot was a miss. But he is a Distinguished Rifleman. He turned to me and asked, "Where's it shooting, Captain?"

"I forgot to tell you, sir. Four inches right at five o'clock." The next seven shots wrecked that can. General Saylor laid the gun down with a final added comment—"I *still* don't believe it."

Just what accuracy can really be obtained is not yet known. But at that range, it is definitely practical. Our tests proved it.

Our own Ordnance Department also designed what they called a "bullet deflector," to fit on the muzzles of submachine guns mounted in tank turrets, to cover blind spots that could be reached by direct fire.

This device differs from the German bent barrel in that it is entirely open on the inside radius of the curve, as will be seen in the photograph. As its name indicates, it is really a deflector rather than, strictly speaking, a curved barrel, although the effect is similar.

Used in conjunction with the periscope alongside which it is mounted, it enables bullets to be thrown into nearby spots which could not otherwise be reached from inside the tank.

A few added comments will prove of interest.

The two types of German bent barrel are rifled, similar to the standard MP 44 barrel. They are then cold-formed, or bent in a fixture. The muzzle portion of the MP 44 barrel has a diameter of .55 inch. The ninety-degree barrel attachment has a diameter of .98 inch. Length is eighteen and three-quarters inches, and this heavy weight suspended on the slender standard barrel is not practical. Tests showed that after 150 rounds, the new throat in the bent barrel was badly torn into an oval at 1:30 o'clock, and one could see damage to the rifling up in the curved section. But it didn't matter. It still shot.

At a point starting 2.28 inches from the breech of the bent thirty-degree barrel is a series of .157-inch holes, five each in two rows, about thirty degrees apart on the top of the barrel. These extend into the bore and a sleeve on the barrel permits opening or closing them. Major Hartmann told me that this was to relieve pressure when the standard bullet was used; yet permit closing when the blank cartridge for grenade launching was being fired.

It all sums up to this—a bent barrel can be made to shoot. With a proper optical sight you can control shots to score hits on a military target.

And finally, the Germans did something breaking all scientific laws.

I echo that remark:

"I *still* don't believe it!"

• • •

Accuracy in Handguns

(*Continued from page* 28)

little better. Perhaps all ammunition is more accurate than a shooter can hold, but when one point is often the difference between first and second place in competition, why not take every advantage that is available? Many years ago, near the end of the season, it looked as if our team had a championship in hand when one week brought a disastrous slump. We had changed .22 caliber ammunition that week, and it received prompt attention. Careful measurement of bullet diameter showed .221 inch and, knowing the barrel was .223 plus, we had our answer. Those bullets rattling down the barrel did not give enough resistance to upset the base properly. Switching back to the previous make of ammunition promptly brought the scores back to former levels.

Aside from these three points, which are mainly problems for the manufacturers, accuracy *can* be affected by the action of the shooter himself. Improper cleaning will eventually produce weird results. Lead in the barrel will kill accuracy. Driving a cleaning rod through a barrel with the use of great force will often ruin accuracy forever because of damaged lands. Rough handling, especially as it affects the sights, can so abuse a gun that its accuracy is impaired. One friend told me he was sure that his gun would not shoot straight. An examination of the barrel found it perfect, but the cylinder told a different story. Carbon had caked on so hard that it could not be removed by the usual cleaning and had to be reamed out. After that, this marksman shot his usual scores.

Every reader who has a handgun of good make should have confidence in its built-in accuracy. Whatever the skill at short range, there is comparable skill at longer range. If a shooter is not satisfied with that skill, he should not try to force a steady hold, but rather try to squeeze steadily. If a shooter puts 100 per cent of his attention on increasing trigger pressure so slowly and steadily that he is surprised when the gun goes off, the gun will do its full share. If the revolver is mechanically right and properly adjusted, it will keep up with any improvements in holding and squeezing. Our handguns *are* accurate!

• • •

The Old Coach

TRIGGER CONTROL

With both small bore and .30 caliber matches in full swing this summer, you should be gaining a lot of range experience. Naturally the pressure of match and tournament shooting will take its toll in the scores of all but the most experienced veterans. However the bulletins for these matches contain the "proof of the pudding" as far as results obtained from your instruction and practice are concerned.

One way to be successful in competitive shooting is to school yourself to intense concentration on the shot you are about to fire, paying no attention whatsoever to anything else going on about you. Probably you will have no great difficulty in applying this concentration to such fundamentals as proper position, sight picture and breathing control. Where the gremlin of inattention may sneak in, is in the vital matter of trigger control. Perhaps you haven't yet discovered it, perhaps you just won't admit it, but unless you automatically and uniformly release the trigger properly in rifle shooting, the best holding in the world will avail you nothing.

If you are not yet classified as a Master, or at least an Expert, consider only one correct way to start your bullet on its way to the X-ring—SQUEEZE the trigger with such a smooth, steady and continuous increase of pressure that you yourself can't possibly tell exactly when the rifle will be discharged. If you do not know when the firing pin strikes there is no possibility of your tightening in anticipation and losing all the value of that relaxed position you have been striving for. If you follow this method, you will never become a flincher. Carry out this trigger squeeze with a steady movement of the trigger finger *only*. That index finger should be the only active part of the right hand. Don't squeeze the entire hand; above all, do not jerk the trigger. A jerked trigger means the shooter intentionally and suddenly tried to make the rifle fire—there can be no jerk if the discharge of the rifle is unexpected.

Notice I recommend a *continuous* pressure until the gun is fired. When you get to be an experienced and expert rifleman you may want to vary this procedure so that you apply pressure to the trigger only when your sight picture is perfect, holding that pressure if your sights slightly drift off the target, then increasing it again when the picture again meets your most critical approval. Under this method the rifle fires unexpectedly when the sight picture is correct and the result is an X for the scorer to chalk up to your credit. However, this method is dangerous for all but the most experienced shooters who have disciplined themselves to make that pressure smooth and crisp without having it degenerate into a jerk in an attempt to catch the center of the target as it drifts by the front sight. Use the continuous squeeze method until you know that your eye, brain and trigger finger are working together so smoothly that your reaction time will not throw you out of the ten-ring.

Note that in any case the reference to "steady," "continuous" and "pressure" does not mean that this action is necessarily slow. The too-slow trigger squeeze will set up tensions and will be utterly useless in the less steady positions of kneeling and standing, and especially so in rapid fire shooting. If the trigger squeeze is well controlled there are no restrictions on the speed with which it can be done.

For those who may do .30 caliber shooting this is a good place to mention the military or "2-stage" trigger which will be found in our Service arms. The trigger action here has two movements. The first application of pressure moving the trigger simply takes up the so-called "slack" in the mechanism and does not begin the release of the sear from the sear notch. When the slack has been completely taken up, the trigger finger will detect additional resistance, which means that the second stage of the pull is under way. For most accurate firing, instructors and manuals recommend a fairly heavy initial pressure to be applied. This will carry the trigger action slightly past the separation point of these two stages. There will be no tendency to hesitate when the slack is taken up this way, and the matter of firing will not be accomplished with two separate trigger squeezes. In fact, if the small bore shooter who is used to his single-stage trigger will use this initial heavy pressure the matter of taking up slack is scarcely noticeable.

The steadiness of the prone position will sometimes cover up poor trigger squeeze to the extent that the shooter gets *fair* scores. However a little offhand or standing shooting will make this fault glaringly apparent. The successful offhand shooter is one who has virtually perfect trigger control. With far less support, the alignment of the sights and the target can too easily be destroyed by the slightest sign of a jerk.

To achieve good trigger control, check your gun first. The small bore rifle trigger should release as smoothly as oil rolling across glass at a pressure of slightly over three pounds. According to NRA rules, prescribed for safety reasons, it cannot be less than this. However if you have a good crisp four and one-half pound trigger you can shoot very well with it, but don't wast time or effort with a rough or sloppy trigger action. If you have troubles like this, take your gun to a gunsmith.

Now that you have confidence in the gun itself do as much "dry firing" as you can and as often as you can. Put a miniature target across the living room or back yard, get into position and fire your empty gun at that bull's-eye with just as much care as if a national championship hinged on every shot. Don't do your dry firing carelessly. If you do, it will hurt rather than help. Do it right and the muscles of that trigger finger will acquire the habit of the perfect trigger squeeze. Once properly acquired, a little continuous dry firing practice will keep the habit well ingrained so that your name will appear on the tournament bulletins among the boys who collect the coveted trophies and medals. Get that finger to do its job right and you have traveled 95 percent of the way along the road to a Master classification.

Have confidence in your rifle. If the trigger pull is right, the rest is up to you. Once you have completely learned trigger squeeze, a new, expensive rifle *may* add a fraction to your scores. Until then, learning to use the rifle you have is the best method of learning to shoot. If you don't master that proper trigger release technique, the best of ammunition and equipment will be wasted. ♦ ♦ ♦

POWDER SMOKE: THE NEWS DESK . . . READERS COMMENTS

TEMPORARY CLASSIFICATION CARDS

Any tournament shooter who holds a temporary classification card listing scores fired in 1946 registered tournaments may send it to the NRA for computation of his "permanent classification."

To issue you a classification card in place of your temporary one, the temporary card must contain a minimum of scores for 120 rifle rounds (outdoor) or 90 pistol rounds (indoor and outdoor) after deducting the sub-normal scores. Cards that do not have the required minimum should be kept until sufficient scores are recorded.

Do not send in temporary gallery rifle classification cards. Later in the summer gallery classifications will be compiled from registered tournament score-cards now on file at NRA and a classification book issued.

Send your temporary classification cards to Competition Section, National Rifle Association, 1600 Rhode Island Avenue, N. W., Washington 6, D. C. Be sure your full name and address accompanies the card.

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YOUR CHANCE TO HELP

"We think that there are more examples of innocent persons being injured by the misuse of firearms than of the legitimate use of firearms in self-defense."

The above quotation is typical of many newspaper comments. It does not necessarily represent animosity toward the shooter. It merely indicates the prevalent ignorance of the public with regard to the practical aspects of gun ownership by reputable citizens.

During the war, we have been too busy to keep our file of gun clippings up to date. We now want to accumulate a file of newspaper clippings from current news items covering cases in which private citizens have used firearms either to prevent attempted holdups or to assist in the apprehension of criminals and fugitives from justice.

Our members, located in practically every city and town in the country, can be of invaluable assistance in helping us to build up this file.

Clippings should show the name of the paper from which clipped, the name of the city or town and the date. Please do not send complete newspapers, only the clippings.

We may not be able to personally acknowledge all clippings, but they will nonetheless be deeply appreciated and will serve a valuable purpose in combating the anti-firearms campaign which will reach full force when the State Legislatures convene this winter.

1946 REGIONAL TOURNAMENTS

The generally unsettled business condition and after-the-war situation has been reflected in our effort to establish the 1946 Regional Tournaments. Clubs have in the majority responded splendidly, and are making their facilities available to the shooters in their region even though their range might be in need of repairs to put it back into top condition.

The June *Tournament News* carried a schedule of all 1946 Regional Tournaments. Also, they appear in THE RIFLEMAN Coming Events this issue, listed by dates on which they will be held.

Unfortunately, it proved impossible to establish either a Northeastern Regional Rifle Tournament or a North Central Regional Pistol Tournament. Every effort was made to find sponsors for these matches and ranges suitable to accommodate them. Letters were written to all affiliated clubs in both regions telling them of the lack of a Regional Tournament sponsor and that the tournament would of necessity be cancelled if none were located. Personal contacts were made, to no avail, and the attempt was made to use certain service ranges. It is with real regret that we cannot list a rifle and pistol Regional Tournament for each region this year—we had hoped to do so until the last minute. Shooters should begin now to see that both a sponsor and a range are ready for next year's regional.

For the benefit of those who reside in a region where no Regional Tournament is being held, it has been ruled officially by the Association's officers that competition in outside regions is authorized. Such competitors may attend any outside Regional they prefer.

REGIONAL BOUNDARY CHANGE

To enable competitors living in Erie, Crawford, Mercer, Lawrence, and Beaver Counties of Pennsylvania to more easily attend a Regional Tournament, those counties are taken from the North Central Region and put in the Eastern Region. Competitors residing in these five counties are eligible to fire in the Eastern Regional Rifle Tournament at Altoona, Pennsylvania, and in the Eastern Regional Pistol Tournament at Quantico, Virginia.

INTERESTING MATCHES

Recently a bulletin was received at this office of the summer matches scheduled by the Massachusetts Rifle Association. It was interesting to note the courses of fire and match conditions, since very seldom does one see them these days. Here are a few as they appear on the program:

200 Yard Offhand Match with any .22 rimfire rifle, any iron sights, any offhand position.

500 Yard Offhand Match, using free rifle, any sights, any offhand position.

300 Yard Prone Match, using free rifle, any iron sights.

Old Timers' Match: open to any black powder rifle except .22 caliber at 200 yards offhand.

BRITISH CALL UP ARMS

Recently the British Home Secretary asked the public to voluntarily surrender their souvenir weapons to the police. Following this appeal thousands of pistols, rifles, machineguns, and a few incendiary Very lights, and hand grenades were turned in.

The attitude of the British government has not altered toward firearms registration. There still exists the law requiring annual registrations of all firearms. Permits for possessing guns are still issued only for good cause, such as being a member of a gun club or going on a hunting trip.

Upon seeing newspaper notice of this calling in of guns by the British, C. E. Nordhus, of Seattle, Washington, wrote us, counseling, "Don't waste valuable space in THE RIFLEMAN for their next appeal for guns from America. Let them pay for ads in the classified columns—like the rest of us."

Ricochets

CUBAN SHOOTING

Havana, Cuba.

Editor:

The boys down here are doing their utmost to keep in shooting shape. The Navy has finished plans to build their range and are also organizing and training a group of picked men to compete in coming shooting events. These men will most likely go to Tampa to compete in tournaments being held there this summer. The Police are doing the same thing and are practising on their 25 yard range, located at the Police Academy. Civilians are only shooting a little bit, but are coming back to normal very slowly. Unfortunately, we are all suffering the very acute shortage of ammunition; in fact, the only thing we can shoot with, when we can get some, is the .22 caliber long rifle (Canadian make). The American ammunition is practically prohibitive due to its high cost (at present, $20.00 per thousand). The same thing occurs with .38 and .45 caliber ammunition, and with guns—there are none available. The only thing that we have at hand, and none too abundant, are .22 pistols. .38's and .45's are as scarce as hens' teeth.

R. P. Falcon.

HOW IT STARTS

Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

Editor:

I am greatly interested in your fight for the arms owners in the United States against registration of firearms and what it will ultimately lead to.

As you know, we in Canada have to register all pistols and revolvers, and even obtain permits to carry them from our homes to the range. Up to a few days ago these permits were issued free of charge, but now the Province of Quebec (and it will only be a matter of time before the other Provinces in Canada follow suit) is going to charge $3.00 for permits, or in the case of clubs with over ten members, $1.00 each. Banks and others who have guards are also charged $1.00 for each permit. But the individual citizen has to pay the $3.00.

This is only the thin edge of the wedge. It won't be long until the Government will charge for registration, which will be tough on collectors of firearms.

E. G. Brewer.

K-HORNET

Lake Forest, Illinois.

Editor:

In THE AMERICAN RIFLEMAN, May, 1946, F. C. Ness's article, ".22 Center Fires in Review," states the following concerning the .22 K-Hornet cartridge:

"They lengthened the body at the expense of the neck and put an abrupt shoulder to it.

"The attractiveness of the K-Hornet lay in the fact that it would fit and function in the standard Hornet box magazines and chambers."

Mr. Ness goes on to say: ". . . but handloaders could continue to use factory ammunition with equally reliable and accurate results in their K-Hornet chambers and then reload the reformed case . . ."

It seems to me that the second statement is contradictory to the other two. If the body is lengthened, how could the longer body of the K-Hornet fit into the chamber of the shorter standard Hornet?

I think Mr. Ness means that the standard Hornet will fit in the chamber of the K-Hornet.

Henry A. Into.

Everything would have been OK had Mr. Ness omitted "and chambers" when stating that the K-Hornet cartridge will function in the standard Hornet box magazine. Those two words make the sentence confusing and slightly misleading. The standard Hornet chamber must be enlarged slightly before it will take the K-Hornet cartridge. It is possible to use the factory ammo in the K-Hornet chamber, but the K-Hornet ammo cannot be used in the factory Hornet chamber.—ED.

A REPORT FROM MASSACHUSETTS

Cambridge, Mass.

Editor:

I lived for some time in New York City and held a pistol permit there for about five years. Hence, after moving to Cambridge, Massachusetts, I anticipated no trouble in obtaining one. After all, New York is notorious as the hardest place in which to get permission to own a pistol.

Having been advised that the Chief of Police was responsible for issuing permits, I went to his office in Headquarters. He was out, so I turned to a person working there.

Upon asking him how to obtain a pistol permit, he replied, "What do you want that for?"

"To carry a pistol."

"Yes, but why?"

"For target shooting, mainly."

"Well, that's no reason."

"Then what is a good reason?"

"If you had to carry large sums of money around or something like that."

"But we are supposed to rely upon the Police Department for protection."

"You go and see Captain Douglas, downstairs. He's the Deputy Chief. But he will probably tell you the same thing."

I could tell before speaking that Captain Douglas was in no mood to be crossed.

After repeating about the same thing as the first person I had talked with, he went on to say, "I don't know you. You might be anybody."

I explained that this deficiency is usually made up by character references, etc., on the application forms. This seemed to irritate him. He repeated that I might be *anybody*. He asked if I were on parole. He repeated that he'd be giving permits "to any cowboy that came up and asked for them."

When I reminded him that there was no law against carrying a gun, he thought for a minute and concluded, "Well, I'm not giving any permits for your reasons. You come back tomorrow and talk to Lieutenant ———."

"This sounds to me like the old-fashioned run-around."

He almost exploded. He jumped up and, pointing to the door, urged me outside with rather abusive language, repeating that he would make sure that I never got a permit.

I answered, "You'll probably not be able to prevent me," and departed.

Since this incident, I have met only one other fellow who has attempted to obtain a permit at this station. His treatment was similar to mine.

Name withheld.

WHAT BECOMES OF THE JUNIORS?

About a hundred thousand teen-age youngsters take part in the NRA junior program each year. Apparently a relatively small percentage go directly into senior shooting activities when they reach the junior age limit of 19. What happens to the interest of these young riflemen? Why don't they automatically join your senior club? What can your senior club do to draw more of them in?

The Glendale Shooting Club, Inc., of St. Louis, asked itself these questions and is doing something to answer them. This group of senior shooters has contacted instructors of local scholastic junior rifle clubs, asking each to select a member of his club who is also a member of the graduating class to receive a free membership in the senior club. However, they have gone further than that. Their members also offer these selected boys the use of the finest target equipment available and guarantee them transportation to and from the range when necessary.

Could your club use some new blood? Wouldn't it help a lot to have a half dozen enthusiastic, fairly well-trained young riflemen added to your membership? The NRA believes it would and urges you to consider the Glendale plan or some modification of it to draw these younger shooters into senior club activities.

INDIAN SCOUTS

The U. S. Army Indian Scouts who played such an important part in the settlement of the West during the 1870s, '80s, '90s and around the turn of the century, are almost passé. Today there are only five men remaining in this branch of the Army. They are stationed at Fort Huachuca, Arizona, serving as boundary riders, game wardens and guards on the local Indian reservation. With the passing of these last five men, the Indian Scouts of the U. S. Army will cease to exist.

E. H. Phillips

E. H. (Gene) Phillips, Secretary-Treasurer of the Watsonville, California, Rifle and Pistol Club passed away on March 29, 1946. He was seventy-six years old. An active outdoorsman and a rifleman for many years, Mr. Phillips was the sparkplug of his club's pre-inductions small arms training school.

THE JUNIOR MARKSMAN

POLICE-SPONSORED JUNIOR CLUBS PREVENT PROMISCUOUS SHOOTING

Teen-age youngsters and their .22 rifles, paired with a lack of supervision, always present to their communities problems which usually end up in the hands of the police or juvenile authorities. However, a good many farsighted towns are coming to the realization that the best way to eliminate this problem is to give the youngsters a safe place to shoot under supervision and a program providing incentives which draw them away from the dangerous practice of roaming the nearby fields and woods to shoot at any target that presents itself.

The greatest aim of the NRA junior club program is *firearms safety education.* Now, more than a score of NRA junior clubs have organized to provide just this safety education. The greater metropolitan area of Los Angeles has adopted the idea in a big way and already has set up nearly a dozen junior rifle clubs under direct supervision of police officers.

The latest club of this type has been set up by the Albany (Oregon) Recreation Department with Police Captain Glenn McDaniels acting as Instructor. The Albany course is coordinated with the Boy Scout program so that youngsters who complete the schedule of instruction can obtain Scout Merit Badges, in addition to the NRA qualification awards. Major F. H. Blake, Albany Recreation Director, reported the response to the new club so great that it was necessary to limit the enrollment of the first class to 100. More youngsters will be taken in later. Eventually the sponsors hope every Albany boy will be trained never to mistake a loaded for an unloaded gun and to know that you never point a gun at anything you don't want to kill.

This teen-age problem arises in practically every community at some time or other and it is the duty of the adult riflemen to point out the wisdom of a realistic solution like this. Any club of this type sponsored by police departments, municipal authorities, community recreation departments or civic organizations is a thoroughly worthwhile community service.

JUNIOR QUALIFICATIONS

Junior NRA members should be encouraged to fire senior outdoor qualification courses since the 50- and 100-yard "Junior American Rifleman" course of fire has been discontinued (all other junior courses are still in effect). By firing senior outdoor qualification courses, junior members prepare themselves for the time they become senior members; at the same time they may earn attractive senior qualification awards. If your club has no outdoor range, it is suggested that you contact the nearest senior club that does. The secretary or the instructor of the senior club will be in a position to give you assistance. This is a definite road to follow which will insure that your junior shooters do not lack an opportunity for shooting during the summer months when school ranges may be closed.

CAMP SHOOTING

Once again the NRA is preparing for the opening of summer camps. In this, the twentieth year of NRA Junior activities, the summer camp program shows all indications of being larger than ever before in the history of the Association. With over 600 camps offering rifle shooting and instruction among their camp activities, the NRA will reach more than 40,000 youngsters.

An increased competitive schedule is being planned for these Juniors in the summer camps. The summer camp team championship will be fired, as in past years, and other individual matches will be scheduled.

To aid camps who wish to include shooting among their activities, the NRA operates a Camp Instructor Placement Service. This year almost 100 capable and experienced instructors were placed in camps as smallbore rifle instructors.

93 OUT OF 93

Ninety-three members or former members of the Judge John Faust Squadron 113 S. A. L. Junior Rifle Club went into the services during the war. And ninety-three of those qualified with the rifle over service courses of fire. Even though not operating a preinduction small-arms school, the Club's instructors, James E. O'Connor, Richard Clinton, Lermys Flake, and Frank Curran, deserve the credit for this fine showing by their pupils.

20TH ANNIVERSARY

We wonder how many clubs, instructors, or junior shooters realize that 1946 marks the 20th year of the NRA Junior Program. Way back in 1926 the Association took over this activity which had been operated for a number of years previously as the Winchester Junior Rifle Corps by the Winchester Arms Company.

Looking back over the records we see quite a story of progress. At this time of year in 1926 a total of 228 junior clubs and camps held NRA charters—1946 shows 1,435. During 1926 the NRA issued 12,144 junior qualifications—1946 shows 24,230 at the end of the first five months, adding the camping awards this figure will probably be well over 100,000 by December 31st.

The greatest source of pride is found in the perfect safety record throughout these twenty years. During that time, while well over a million teen-aged youngsters were earning qualification decorations, not a single accident, fatality or minor shooting injury was recorded. Furthermore, so far as the Association has been able to determine, not one of these young shooters was ever involved in any kind of a shooting accident in later life. There's a record worthy of pride.

After looking back over twenty years of exceptional progress and development, let's look forward to the future crop of junior riflemen. May the next twenty years meet the challenge of the past—meet it and surpass it.

THE SPOTTING SCOPE

WITH RAY STANN

Now that the National Matches have definitely been scheduled this year for Camp Perry (see Page 14), you can go ahead with vacation plans . . . the somewhat unexpected official OK, coming at a time when the outlook was darkest for any '46 Nationals, is indicative of continued War Department sentiment favoring civilian competition . . . biggest stumbling block outside of the site was the matter of working personnel . . . but General Eisenhower's office sidestepped that one simply by saying, "We'll just move in the troops you'll need."

Don't fail to credit the DCM, Colonel E. F. (Tod) Sloan, with a big assist in landing the matches . . . his attitude throughout: We *must* hold the Nationals in '46.

It won't be the Perry of the '30s . . . may not even approach the all-smallbore-and-pistol program of '41 . . . but after five years. . . .

* * *

Strange, isn't it, that in one of the country's hottest pistol shooting regions—North Central—there will be no pistol regional this year . . . and in the Northeast, normally a stronghold of small-bore riflemen, there will be no small-bore regional? Reason: Lack of a club with the facilities, the personnel, or the will to sponsor the event. . . . A recent visit to the Albany-Schenectady-Troy, N. Y., area showed that riflemen there had the will, could get the personnel, but lacked facilities. . . . That, in part, can be blamed on the war . . . also on the fact that they are holding the pistol regional there. . . . What is the excuse for lack of enthusiasm in other areas?

Two things can happen: (1) The apathy of a few shooters in those regions can pervert the enthusiasm of all, or (2) the enthusiasm of the majority can overwhelm the apathy. Let's work for the latter.

* * *

How many prospective shooters and club members visit your club or range for the first time . . . and fail to return after that first visit? We'd like to know, and we'd like to know why. Is it the fault of the club or of the prospective new shooter . . . or both?

We made a sample check in two localities. . . . Conclusion reached was that at least part of the trouble lies in the diffidence of the new shooter, loath to expose his ignorance of guns and shooting to a club membership or experienced marksmen. . . . Far from exonerating clubs in the case, this could be a powerful argument in favor of continuing training classes for tyros . . . developing their ability to a point where they may confidently take part in club activities. . . . What do you think?

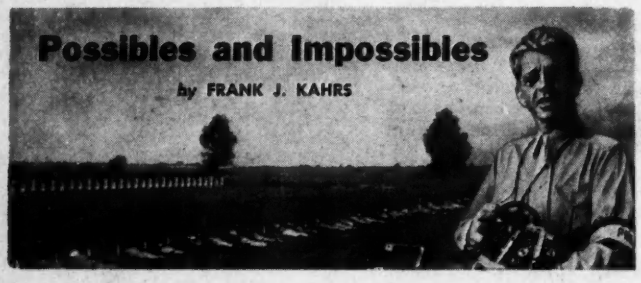
* * *

Already looking to the 1948 London Olympics, Britain's NRA is pushing free pistol competition . . . citing as the horrible example the 1936 American team which tried to match, with our ordinary guns, the deliberate, 50 meter, covered firing-point technique of the Europeans—unsuccessfully.

A PAPER FOR PEOPLE WHO SHOOT

Rifle Re

VOL. 9. NO. 7 BRIDGEPORT,



The other day I read a clipping from Butte, Montana, from the Butte *Daily Post* that made me glow all over. It was practically a column story giving the final results of a 10-week series of pistol and rifle matches. It wasn't this fact alone that impressed me, but for a moment I thought I was reading the account of a baseball game because the paper arranged this in a won, lost and percentage column, and still they made the whole thing readable.

There was Butte in the pistol shoot—10 won and 1 lost—with Yakima and Pocatello the runners up; and under the rifle section, Belgrade won 10 and lost 1 with Grand Coulee and Spokane the runners up in Class A. In Class B, Colville won 11 and lost 0, and in Class C Yakima won 10 and lost 1.

Now, there were twelve clubs in each classification, excepting Class B where there were 11, or a total of thirty-five clubs, and there were twelve in the pistol shoot.

I tell you, those boys out in the northwest really take their shooting and reporting seriously. Once more we take off our hats to a newspaper that furnishes its readers complete sporting news, including rifle and pistol shooting.

* * *

A reader of the column wrote in recently and after making reference to the Currier and Ives prints of old-time shooters and their queer positions, tells me about some of the old timers known as the Thompsons Pennsylvania Riflemen which were recruited from the Frontier Counties of York, Cumberland, Bedford and Westmoreland in Western and Central Pennsylvania in the days of the Revolution.

They went to war with their powder horns, knives, tomahawks, and Pennsylvania (not Kentucky) rifles. These riflemen are credited to Daniel Morgan in popular histories. and while some were from the Valley of Virginia, most were Pennsylvanians with Lancaster County Pennsylvania Rifles.

We thank our reader for this additional historical information about the old-time riflemen and we welcome further comments from some of our other readers.

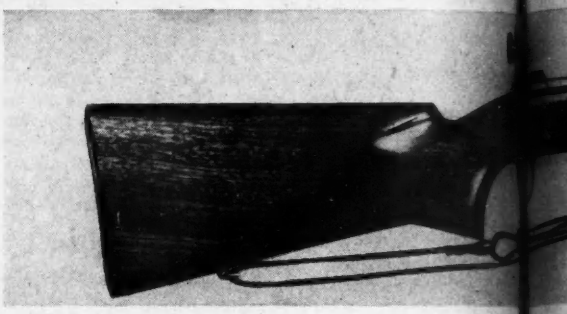
* * *

One of the boys in Portland, Oregon, while shooting in an indoor match at 50 feet, recently got himself a possible in the prone match. Being in a tie, he had to shoot it off and he kept on shooting and finally he had to borrow some more "Palma Kleanbore" ammunition, which was made in 1942. Having won the shoot, he went ahead and fired a total of 307 consecutive 10's for a new NRA National Record.

Now this will all furnish some interesting material for discussion about the keeping qualities of ammunition. Here is stuff that was made four years ago and apparently as good as ever. Frankly, we have always maintained that if ammunition was stored under proper conditions the stuff would keep indefinitely.

Anyhow, that's my story, and before I sign off I'd like to say that when ammunition four years old makes a new national record, I consider that it is time for me to put in a plug for "Palma Kleanbore" accuracy and quality, which I hereby do.

MODEL 3



MODEL 37 DESIGNED TO KE SHOOTERS "IN THE GROO

BRIDGEPORT, CONN., July 1946. In designing the Rangemaster, Remington employed ideas contributed by many of the finest shots and most experienced gun designers. The resulting target rifle has many virtues of a custom-made arm. It has a *feel* and *fit* that make it easy to release every shot exactly when and where you want it to go.

The "tailored" stock is the most comfortable made. The high, thick comb promotes better sighting. The close pistol grip gives sensitive control of trigger finger. A wide, long beavertail fore-end assures steady holding without tiring. The leather shooting sling justable sling swivel precise fit for short- armed shooters. A dul quer finish on the finely stock adds to pride of ow

Several different in combinations are availa cluding the immensely team of Remington mic rear sight and Redfield sight. Remington M Rangemaster is the hottest competition, whe sibles plus extremely groups and plenty of X's ure the difference betwe ning or losing a match.

AROUND OUR CLUB . . . . . *The "Expectant" Fa*

YOU'LL HAVE TO DO BETTER THAN THAT TO BEAT YOUR SON WHEN HE GETS HOME FROM THE ARMY
YOU'D BETTER GET SOME REMINGTON "PALMA KLEANBORE" A NEW MODEL 37!

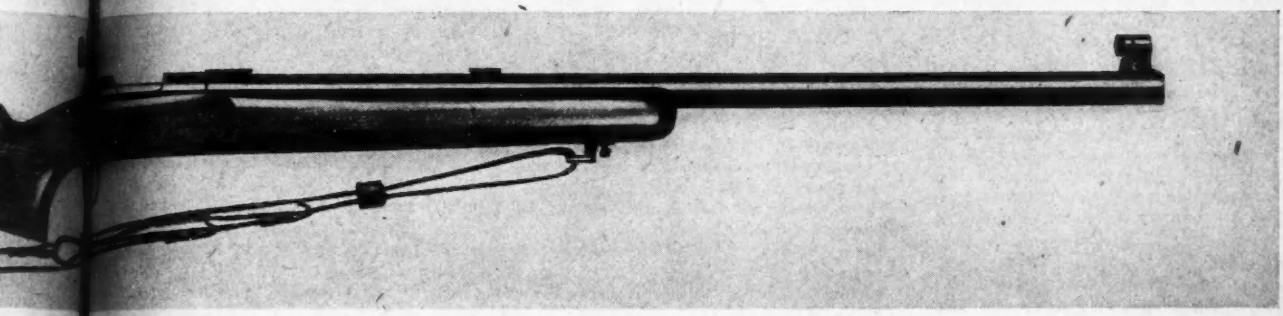
Remington News

BRIDGEPORT, CONN., JULY, 1946

First Class Reading Matter for Rifle Shooters

WEATHER:
HOT LIKE THE REMINGTON MODEL 37

L 37 BACK AGAIN



"37" FULFILLS ALL REQUIREMENTS FOR MATCH ACCURACY

1. Fast, smooth bolt action.
2. Specially rifled 28-inch barrel — heavy — semi-floating — double countersunk at muzzle.
3. Heat treated operating surfaces to insure minimum headspace without variation.
4. Full-fashioned stock with high, thick comb, close pistol grip, wide and long beavertail fore-end.
5. "Miracle" trigger . . . smooth, sharp, crisp; lightning-fast let-off; no back lash; no drag or creep; quickly adjustable.
6. Milled steel loading platform for single loading. Interchangeable 5-shot clip magazine.
7. Removable sights . . . Remington micrometer target rear sight with six-hole eye piece; ¼ minute clicks; Redfield globe front sight with seven interchangeable inserts. Adjustable extension mounting block supplied with rear sight.
8. Standard telescope blocks fitted as regular equipment. Iron sights and telescope on same plane.
9. Shooting sling of heavy leather. Adjustable front sling swivel, properly positioned for long- or short-armed shooters.

REMINGTON "RANGEMASTER" MATCH RIFLE AVAILABLE IN LIMITED QUANTITIES

BRIDGEPORT, CONN., July 1946. After the four-year lapse in sporting arms production, Remington is pleased to announce that manufacture of the famous Rangemaster Model 37 target rifle has been resumed. This widely popular match rifle is again available in limited quantities to the target shooting public!

When first introduced in 1937, the Model 37 won immediate recognition. Top ranking shooters who handled and fired it agreed that the 37 was the finest 22 caliber small-bore target rifle ever manufactured. On every count, the Model 37 is tops. The accuracy of the barrel has been proved by the many records set with it. The action is as fast as any ever made for a bolt action arm. Head space is held to extremely fine tolerances. The new "tailored" stock has no equal. And the "Miracle" trigger is unexcelled for outstanding performance. It is a precision instrument.

The Model 37 incorporates the ideas of many of the finest shots and most expert gun designers in the country. It was planned, designed and built by Remington with the determination that it would be the best small-bore match rifle made. There is no other rifle like it in the world! But the best proof is in the shooting! Every shooter should take the opportunity to try one himself.

Remington is making every effort to speed shipments to small-bore shooters through local dealers. But current shortages of manufacturing materials will limit the quantities of Model 37 rifles produced. It is unfortunate that a Rangemaster cannot be promised to everyone who wants to own this rifle. But to obtain the 37 with the least possible delay, we suggest keeping in touch with your local dealer. First come . . . first served!

RETAIL PRICES

No. 37AR complete with Remington receiver sight and Redfield front sight	$94.70
No. 37AS complete, but without sling strap	92.90
No. 37AF without rear sight but with Redfield front sight	78.95
No. 37AX without front and rear sights	75.55
Remington rear sight adapter for Redfield, Lyman, Marble-Goss, Pacific and Merit discs (no extra charge when supplied in place of regular Remington disc), extra (not taxable)	.70

For free descriptive folder, write to Remington Arms Company, Inc., Rifle Promotion Section, Bridgeport 2, Conn.

Palma, Kleanbore and Rangemaster are Reg. U. S. Pat. Off. by Remington Arms Co., Bridgeport 2, Conn.

TOURNAMENT REVIEWS

Dr. Irwin Tekulsky, newly returned from two years overseas, copped the 21st Annual Metropolitan Rifle Championship of the Metropolitan Rifle League, fired May 26 at Bethpage. He scored 1193-70x in the aggregate of three 40-shot matches. Second place in the championship match went to Eleanor Dunn's 1190-67x. Walter Tomsen scored 399-25x in the metallic sight Dewar to win the James Wallace Chilles Memorial Trophy, awarded by the Roosevelt Rifle Club of New York City.

* * *

In the registered pistol tournament at Gainesville, Georgia, on May 19, Avery Burdette of Guntersville, Alabama, won both the .22 and the center-fire aggregate, the first with a 934 and the second with 719. Major Edwin Harding, Jr. of Fort McPherson was second in the .22 match and Sergeant D. J. Hands was runner-up in the center-fire match.

* * *

Charles Hamby won both the grand aggregate and the iron-sight aggregate in the Tennessee State Smallbore Championship, held on May 19 in Knoxville. His scores in each were 3167x4000 and 1584x1600.

* * *

For the fourth time in four matches the Burlington Rifle Club of Burlington, Wisconsin, won the four-man team event at the Fourth Annual Smallbore Tournament of the Falk Rifle Club, held in Milwaukee on May 19. Steve Bornslaeger of Milwaukee won the aggregate of two gallery matches, scoring 376. Second and third aggregate winners were Mansueto Sopetto and Ellis Lea with 374 and 373, respectively.

* * *

Winner of the Far West Smallbore Rifle Tournament, sponsored by the Glendale R. & R. Club in Glendale on May 12 was Wallace Robbins who totalled 1184-58x. Otto Marckmann of Pasadena won the Dewar match with 399-27x. The 40 shots at 100 yards event was taken by John O. Miller of Los Angeles, who scored 396-20x. Robbins won the 50-meter match with 397-22x. The two-man team event went to William E. Smith and F. U. Dunkin with a 400-25x at 50 meters.

* * *

W. R. McCartney almost made a clean sweep of the First Annual Milwaukee Handgun League Indoor Tournament, held in Milwaukee on May 5. Robert A. Klug won the Slow Fire Match and McCartney took all the rest. His scores in the various matches were: Timed Fire, 192; Rapid Fire, 189; Three-stage, 278; and the Aggregate, 818.

* * *

A sixteen-year-old shooter from Parkersburg, West Virginia, Robert Jones, turned in the outstanding scores at the Fort Harmer Rifle Club's Eighth Annual Spring Tournament at Marietta, Ohio, on May 11 and 12. On Sunday, May 12, he fired two consecutive 400 scores: 400-25x in the any-sight 50 yard

(Continued on page 43)

COMING EVENTS

The four classes of registered tournaments are indicated as follows: AA—National Matches; A—Regional; B—State championships and large district matches; C—Local. Unregistered and Unclassified tournaments are so marked, as are tournaments requiring pre-entries or limiting entries.

South Carolina (C), July 4—Smallbore Match. R. W. Poore, Jr., 113 Chandler, Greenville.

Missouri (C), July 4—Outdoor Pistol. Frank Stubits, 5507 Lisette Avenue, St. Louis.

Virginia (A), July 5, 6, 7—Eastern Regional Pistol Tournament. CWO C. A. Brown, Rifle Range Det., Marine Barracks, Quantico.

Pennsylvania (A), July 5, 6, 7—Eastern Regional Rifle Tournament. R. B. Berry, 407 2nd Avenue, Altoona.

California (A), July 6, 7—Far Western Regional Rifle Tournament. J. E. Cornell, 662 Arden Avenue, Glendale.

Texas (C), July 7—Summer Pistol Tournament. H. M. Cline, 179 Mahncke Ct., San Antonio.

California (Unregistered), July 7—Oakland Monthly Pistol Tournament. John H. Valerga, Jr., 3800 Cerrito Avenue, Oakland.

California (Unregistered), July 7—Southland Pistol Matches. R. S. Pease, Route 3, Box 84, San Diego.

Vermont (Unregistered), July 7—Vermont State .30 Caliber Tournament. P. H. Teachout, East Burke. *Unclassified.*

Pennsylvania (C), July 13—Kittanning "All Night" Dewar Tournament. E. W. Cook, 926 Orr Avenue, Kittanning.

Texas (A), July 13, 14—Southwestern Regional Pistol Matches. John F. Callan, 405 East 30th Street, Austin.

Michigan (B), July 13, 14—Michigan State Smallbore Rifle Tournament. Lewis A. Tyner, 1738 Dee, Wyandotte.

West Virginia (C), July 13, 14—4th Annual Open Smallbore Rifle Tournament. R. A. Simpson, 212 West 10th Street, Parkersburg.

New York (C), July 13, 14—Grumman "Hellcat" Trophy Smallbore Rifle Tournament, at Bethpage. V. B. Cleaver, P. O. Box 356, Hicksville.

Kentucky (C), July 14—Fort Knox Pistol Tournament. Tech. Sgt. James Tumlin, Weapons Dept.—The Armored School, Fort Knox. *Unclassified.*

Pennsylvania (Unregistered), July 14—.22 Caliber Free Rifle Offhand Match. Leonard L. Aurand, 229 East Third Street, Lewistown.

California (Unregistered), July 14—Bay District Smallbore Tournament. C. DeWitt, 3701 Lincoln Avenue, Oakland.

Colorado (B), July 14—State Pistol Matches, at Englewood. L. F. Markle, 1006 Olive St., Denver.

Maryland (B), July 14—Maryland State Smallbore Championship, at Frostburg. Mrs. James Ambrose, 615 E. Street, Sparrows Point. *Limited to 120 entries.*

Washington (C), July 14—Buddy League Pistol Tournament. W. F. Day, Police Headquarters, Seattle.

Montana (C), July 14—21st Annual Northwest Smallbore Rifle Tournament. W. T. Matsen, 105 Pine Street, Anaconda.

Indiana (C), July 14—Smallbore Rifle Tournament, at Muncie. Hermann Schloen, Jr., Daleville.

Oklahoma (A), July 19-20-21—Southwestern Regional Rifle Tournament. B. N. Elliott, 1415 South Oswego, Tulsa.

California (A), July 19, 20, 21—Far Western Regional Pistol Tournament, at Lake Merced. Emile Dutil, 324 16th Avenue, San Francisco.

Illinois (A), July 20, 21—Mid Western Regional Rifle Tournament, at Deerfield. Robert J. Spahr, 407 S. Dearborn St., Suite 1150, Chicago.

Pennsylvania (B), July 20, 21—Fort Hand Rifle Club Tournament. L. L. Reichenbaugh, 173 Lincoln Avenue, Vandergrift.

Michigan (B), July 20, 21—Michigan State Pistol Matches. Capt. C. M. Enkemann, Police Dept., Ann Arbor.

Massachusetts (Unregistered), July 20-28—United Services of New England Rifle and Pistol Tournament. Col. C. David Berg, 29 Fellsway East, Malden.

Indiana (C), July 21—Smallbore Rifle Tournament. W. T. Woodall, 520 W. 38th Street, Anderson.

New York (C), July 21—Pistol Match, at Bethpage. V. B. Cleaver, P. O. Box 356, Hicksville.

Pennsylvania (C), July 21—Annual Phila. Area Mid-Summer Smallbore Tournament, at Cold Point. Gustave A. Irlenborn, 502 Lorraine Avenue, Oreland.

Montana (C), July 21—First Annual Judith River Smallbore. Warren C. Raitt, Utica. *Unclassified.*

Iowa (B), July 21—Iowa State Pistol Tournament. Carl Prevratil, 2022 West 10th St., Davenport, Iowa.

Maine (B), July 21—State Smallbore Rifle, at Damariscotta. Lester E. Clark, 7 Wilson Street, Auburn.

North Carolina (A), July 25, 26, 27—Southeastern Regional Rifle. J. R. Holshouser, 900 Fairmont St., Greensboro.

Colorado (A), July 27, 28—Northwestern Regional Rifle Tournament. J. F. Schooley, 535 Simes Bldg., Denver.

Ohio (A), July 27, 28—North Central Regional Rifle, at Mt. Gilead. V. H. Swink, 412 W. 6th, Marysville.

Wisconsin (Unregistered), July 28—State High Power Matches. Oliver Moody, 5527 No. 35th St., Milwaukee.

Pennsylvania (C), July 28—Outdoor Smallbore, at Chester. Mary Jane Oster, 2802 Township Line, Llanerch.

Iowa (C), July 28—Outdoor Rifle. Ralph Wm. Travis, 314 Insurance Bldg., Waterloo.

Vermont (B), July 28—Vermont State Pistol Tournament. P. H. Teachout, East Burke.

Colorado (A), August 2, 3, 4—Northwestern Regional Pistol Tournament, at Denver. J. F. Schooley, 535 Simes Bldg., Denver.

New York (B), August 3, 4—Southern Tier Smallbore Championships, at Breesport. Clyde T. Curren, 252 Home St., Elmira.

Ohio (C), Aug. 4—3rd Annual Thompson Trophy Smallbore Tournament. Scott A. Edgell, Ohio Rubber Co. Gun Club, Willoughby.

California (C), Aug. 4—Southland Pistol Matches. R. S. Pease, 40th and A Streets, San Diego.

California (Unregistered), Aug. 4—Oakland Monthly Pistol Tournament. John H. Valerga, Jr., 3800 Cerrito Avenue, Oakland.

Illinois (B), Aug. 4—Illinois State Smallbore Tournament. Thomas M. Blakemore, 5004 W. Huron Street, Chicago.

Wisconsin (B), Aug. 10, 11—State Smallbore Matches. Oliver Moody, 5527 No. 35th St., Milwaukee.

Ohio (B), Aug. 10, 11—Ohio State Pistol Match, at Columbus. Chas. G. Kallensee, 3917 E. Third St., Dayton.

Washington (A), Aug. 10, 11—Pacific Northwestern Regional Pistol. Walter F. Day, 2339 43rd St., No., Seattle.

New York (A), Aug. 10, 11—N. E. Regional Pistol, at Albany. Harry L. Palmer, 505 Glen Ave., Scotia.

Ohio (C), Aug. 10, 11—13th Annual Fort Harmar Open. H. W. Meiser, 621 7th St., Marietta.

New York (C), Aug. 11—Smallbore Rifle Match, at Bethpage. V. B. Cleaver, P. O. Box 356, Hicksville.

Indiana (C), Aug. 11—Third Lead Squirters' Picnic. Miss Waunelia Heise, 333 Warren Bldg., Michigan City.

California (Unregistered), Aug. 11—Bay District Smallbore. C. DeWitt, 3701 Lincoln Avenue, Oakland.

New York (C), Aug. 11—8th Annual Smallbore Tournament, at Marilla. Carl Petri, 12 Magnolia Avenue, Buffalo. *Advance Entry Required.*

Maine (B), Aug. 11—Maine State Pistol Tournament. Lester Clark, 7 Wilson St., Auburn.

Iowa (A), Aug. 16, 17, 18—Midwestern Regional Pistol Tournament. Carl Prevratil, 2022 West 10th St., Davenport.

Utah (B), Aug. 17, 18—Utah State .30 Caliber Tournament, at Ft. Douglas. David P. Sudgen, #3 7th West, Salt Lake City.

Michigan (C), Aug. 18—S. E. Summer Rifle Tournament, at Wyandotte. W. S. Bailey, 1764 O'Connor, Lincoln Park.

Massachusetts (C), Aug. 18—Outdoor Rifle. Frank R. Hancock, 115 Main St., Shelburne Falls.

Illinois (C), Aug. 18—Smallbore Rifle Tournament. Byron Putnam, 814 Ellis Avenue, Wheaton.

Pennsylvania (C), Aug. 18—Outdoor Smallbore. Roy S. Bower, 420 E. 23rd., Erie.

Pennsylvania (C), Aug. 18—Smallbore Tournament. Alfred M. Newhard, 111 E. Susquehanna St., Allentown.

California (C), Aug. 18—San Francisco Police Monthly Pistol Tournament, at Lake Merced. Emile Dutil, 324 16th Street, San Francisco.

Washington (A), Aug. 24, 25—Pacific N. W. Regional Rifle. Walter F. Day, 2339 43rd North, Seattle.

Michigan (C), Aug. 25—Annual Midsummer Pistol. Kenneth E. Gilman, 1330 Begole St., Flint.

Pennsylvania (C), Aug. 25—Outdoor Smallbore. Mary Jane Oster, 2800 Township Line, Llanerch.

Louisiana (B), Aug. 24, 25—Louisiana State Pistol Matches, at Shreveport.

Pennsylvania (C), Aug. 25—Masters & Experts Smallbore. James Affleck, Box 2038, Pittsburgh. *Restricted to Masters and Experts. Limited entries.*

Illinois (B), Aug. 25—Illinois State .45 Caliber Pistol Tournament. Thomas M. Blakemore, 5004 W. Huron Street, Chicago.

Vermont (B), Aug. 25—Vermont State Smallbore Tournament. P. H. Teachout, East Burke.

New York (C), Aug. 31-Sept. 1—Fall Championship Pistol Tournament, at Bethpage. V. B. Cleaver, P. O. Box 356, Hicksville.

TOURNAMENT REVIEWS

(Continued from page 42)

match, and 400-28x in the Dewar. Charles Whipple won the tournament grand aggregate; Mrs. Ethel Chattaway was high in Class B.

* * *

The Troy Gallery Pistol League ended the winter season with a registered tournament at their range in Troy, New York, on May 5. Ben Sanford scored 834 to win the aggregate and first place medal in Class A. Scoring 729, William Synarski topped Class B competitors.

* * *

Robert Perkins won the Grand Aggregate of the California Rifle and Pistol Association Smallbore Matches, held in Fresno on April 27. His score of 2580-165x was ten points higher than second-place winner Otto Marckmann, who tallied 2570-140x. Perkins also won the Iron Sight Aggregate with his 1389-85x score. Again Marckmann was second to him, this time scoring 1382-70x. Sam Lear won the Any Sight Aggregate with 1191-84x. Perkins was second with 1191-80x.

* * *

Harold Laycock was winner of the Florida West Coast Pistol League Tournament, held in Ocala on April 28. Laycock's aggregate of 845 was the result of his winning the National Match event with 281, placing second in two other matches and fourth in the final match of the day. Class winners in the Aggregate were: Expert, J. L. Stonehill, 824; Sharpshooter, Robert Stringer, 808; Marksman First Class, C. B. Lundquist 779; and Marksman, Alice Tatro, 697.

* * *

W. Bach won the aggregate of the gallery rifle tournament of the Southeastern Wisconsin Rifle Association, held Sunday, April 28 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Bach's score was 375. Second place was taken by E. Cook and his 374. The Burlington, Wisconsin, Rifle Club won first place in the four-man team match, scoring 1463. Their team was made up of E. Cook, E. Rubach, V. Callender, and W. Bach.

* * *

"Smitty" Brown was high man in the Second Annual Pistol and Revolver Tournament of the Crow Rod and Gun Club, held in Wilkinsburg, Pennsylvania, on April 27 and 28 with an aggregate score of 1659. Al Moore was second with 1629 total. Dr. F. F. Sowers won the .22 Aggregate Trophy by a score of 845. Brown was also winner of the .38 Aggregate, this time totalling 827.

* * *

In the last of the gallery series of pistol matches run by the National Capital Pistol Club on May 12, Walter Walsh fired a 289 to win the Three-stage match. George Matthews placed second with a 286. Noah Rodeheffer of Quantico, Virginia, scored 192 and won the Slow Fire Match. "Smitty" Brown was high in the Timed Fire Match with a 197. Walsh scored 197 also but was outranked by Brown. The Rapid Fire Match honors went to Robert Mansell and his 190.

DOPE BAG

Conducted by Major General J. S. Hatcher
Edwards Brown, Jr., A. H. Barr, J. L. Murphy, J. S. Rose

THIS MONTH:

Czech Pistol · Steel Bullets · Shortening a Rifle Barrel · More About Muzzle Covers · The .45 Caliber Family · Wrong Ammo in Asisaka · New Stock Finish · Three-Barrel Combination · Barrel Obstructions · Protective Coating · Speer Bullets · Trade Dope

CZECH PISTOL, MODEL 27

"I've scanned the pages of all the issues of THE RIFLEMAN I have on hand in search of information on this foreign pistol. So far I've found little.

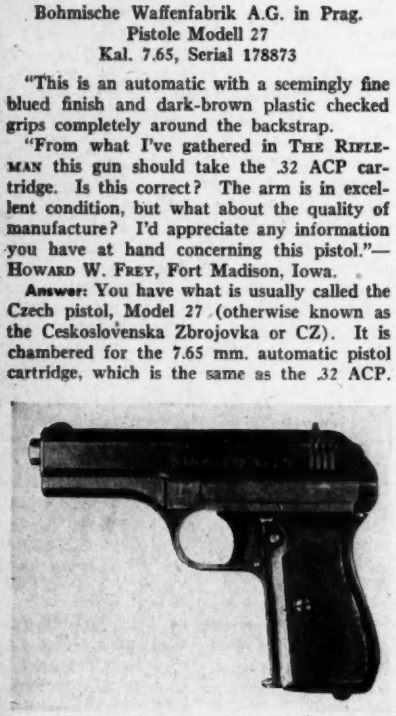
"Here is all the information I have. It was taken from the gun itself.

Bohmische Waffenfabrik A.G. in Prag.
Pistole Modell 27
Kal. 7.65, Serial 178873

"This is an automatic with a seemingly fine blued finish and dark-brown plastic checked grips completely around the backstrap.

"From what I've gathered in THE RIFLEMAN this gun should take the .32 ACP cartridge. Is this correct? The arm is in excellent condition, but what about the quality of manufacture? I'd appreciate any information you have at hand concerning this pistol."—HOWARD W. FREY, Fort Madison, Iowa.

Answer: You have what is usually called the Czech pistol, Model 27 (otherwise known as the Ceskoslovenska Zbrojovka or CZ). It is chambered for the 7.65 mm. automatic pistol cartridge, which is the same as the .32 ACP.



Ceska Zbrojovka, Model 27

The Czechs are great arms producers and consequently this is one of the best designed of European pocket pistols. It is quite similar in some respects to the Mauser .32, Model 1910, but is a very much better job as the good points of the Mauser were retained in a simplified and improved form and at the same time some serious disadvantages of the Mauser model were overcome. On the Mauser the trigger guard is small and the trigger is pivoted in such a way that when it is pulled it squeezes or pinches the finger in a very uncomfortable manner. The Mauser does not have a hammer, but instead has a spring-driven firing pin and when it is cocked an extension of the firing pin protrudes from the rear of the gun to indicate this fact. Unfortunately, this makes the Mauser a very dangerous gun because if it is dropped so that this projection strikes on a hard surface the firing pin may be knocked off the sear and the gun discharged.

This construction is entirely changed in the Czech gun and a hammer is substituted for the spring-driven firing pin. In addition, many of the parts are strengthened and simplified.

You will find the Czech .32 illustrated and described in "The NRA Book of Small Arms, Volume 1, Pistols and Revolvers" by W. H. B. Smith and in "Automatic Weapons of the World" by Johnson and Haven.

Mauser .32, Model 1910

I own and have used both the small Mauser and the CZ, and from personal experience I consider the Czech .32 to be one of the best of the European pocket pistols.—J. S. H.

STEEL BULLETS

A suggestion received: "It seems to me that the ammunition plants in this country should investigate the German 9 mm. steel bullet ammunition. Such a bullet might be the answer to the present lead shortage."—D. L.

Answer: It is true that the lead shortage is the main reason for the dearth of ammunition on the market. The Germans did use at least two types of steel bullets in the 9 mm. caliber Parabellum cartridge.

One of these cartridges was produced with a bullet having a soft iron core and a lead sheath around the rear half of the core. The core is enclosed in a steel jacket which is gilding metal coated. This bullet weighs 100 grains. The cartridge case used with this bullet is brass. The cartridge is identified by the exposed portion of the bullet being entirely black and a black primer annulus.

The other cartridge was loaded with a solid, sintered iron, flat-base bullet weighing 89 grains. The bullet is formed in a die by heating powdered iron particles, in an oxygen-free atmosphere, to the sintering temperature. The cartridge case used in loading this cartridge is made of steel and is lacquered. The primer cup is also made of steel. The bullet is a grayish color and has a black band at the junction of the bullet and the mouth of the case. The case has a black primer annulus.

These sintered iron bullets have been experimented with in this country and in a pinch they could probably be used as a substitute for lead ones. It is impossible to get away from the fact, however, that lead has a density of about 1.4 times that of iron. Muzzle velocities will be higher but because of the lightness of the bullets, velocities will fall off rapidly.—E. B.

SHORTENING A RIFLE BARREL

"I would like some advice about my present rifle, which is a Winchester Model 70, .30-'06, with a 24-inch barrel, custom-made stock, and equipped with a 330 Weaver scope. The gun weighs 9¼ lbs. complete. My problem is to reduce the weight as much as possible without affecting seriously the accuracy of the gun. I probably could take off a quarter of a pound from the stock and the balance off the barrel.

"The question is—what would be the maximum amount that should be cut off, not going shorter than fifteen inches?

"Since I am a gauge maker, I would not hesitate doing the job myself. However, not having access to a lathe, I could not round out the muzzle end after cutting, except by hand. What is the effect of a squared-off muzzle?"—MALCOLM O'DELL, Williams, Ariz.

Answer: In order to get a very light rifle you will have to eliminate as much wood from the stock as possible and cut the barrel down to twenty inches. You cannot go below twenty inches without encountering unpleasant muzzle blast, and anything shorter than eighteen inches would be illegal unless registered under the National Firearms Act.

I have cut off many a barrel without using a lathe. I true it up afterwards and then use a brass ball or balls of different diameter to lap the muzzle, leaving the outer edges square or nearly so. (See Morgan Holme's article in this issue on shortening Mauser barrels.) I have cut off perhaps a dozen different Krag barrels and have found that it does no harm whatever to the accuracy. The point to watch is the chamfering or lapping of the bore and rifling at the muzzle with the round ball, being sure that it is absolutely true all the way around.—A. H. B.

MORE ABOUT MUZZLE COVERS

A member writes: "In going over THE RIFLEMAN for May I note your answer in the Dope Bag on muzzle covers. What about the Neoprene Muzzle Caps made by Woodford Manufacturing Company, Lyndhurst, Ohio?"

Answer: These Neoprene Muzzle Caps, made in two sizes, are handy indeed on either rifles or shotguns. They serve a very useful purpose in keeping foreign material out of the muzzle and I do not see how any harm could result when firing through them. The larger size is convenient as a cover for telescope lenses.

Being made of Neoprene, which is not affected by oil, they are not too bad for use on bottles of cleaning solution, etc., in case the regular cap or cork becomes lost.—J. S. H.

THE .45 CALIBER FAMILY

"I have a British Webley revolver, .45 caliber, chambered for a cartridge having a lead bullet which, I believe, has a velocity of approximately 800 feet per second. Is it safe to use the United States manufactured .45 Auto Rim cartridge in this revolver? If not, can you suggest any other American cartridge which wil be safe? What about some of the other .45 caliber ammunition?"—R. T. W.

Answer: The .45 caliber Auto Rim cartridge will not fit the .455 caliber Webley revolver because the cartridge case rim of the .45 Auto Rim is too thick to clear the frame of the revolver as the cylinder is rotated.

Ammunition listed as .455 caliber Colt Mark II was manufactured by both Remington and Winchester before World War II for use in the .455 Webley Mark VI Pistol No. 1 and the British Smith and Wesson .455 revolver.

While the British call the .455 Webley Mark VI a pistol, it is, as we think of it in the U. S., a revolver. The Smith and Wesson .455 caliber revolver appears to be almost identical to the U. S. Revolver Model 1917. The same is true of the Colt New Service .455. Colt and S&W use identical dimensians for the bore and rifling of the .45 caliber Colt and the .455 caliber, but there is a difference in the chambering and headspacing. You are lucky if you find any Webley ammunition on the dealers' shelves at the present time but I expect that it will be produced in this country again. The lead bullet weighs 265 grains and is loaded to a velocity of between 600 and 780 feet per second. The 265 grain bullet was designed for target use. The British service round, however, is loaded with a 255 grain conical, jacketed bullet.

The .455 Webley Mark II ammunition will not fit the .45 Model 1917 because the body diameter of Mark II ammo is too large.

The British have another cartridge called the .455 caliber Webley Self-Loading. This cartridge case is semirimless. It is loaded with a 224 grain jacketed bullet to a muzzle velocity of about 740 feet per second.

This self-loading ammunition was originally designed for use in the .455 Webley Automatic Pistol, Mark I, which was adopted by the British Royal Navy in 1913. The Mark I Pistol is no longer standard. This same ammunition was also used in the British Colt .455 Automatic Pistol which is practically the same as our Government Model 1911 and was made for the British during World War I.

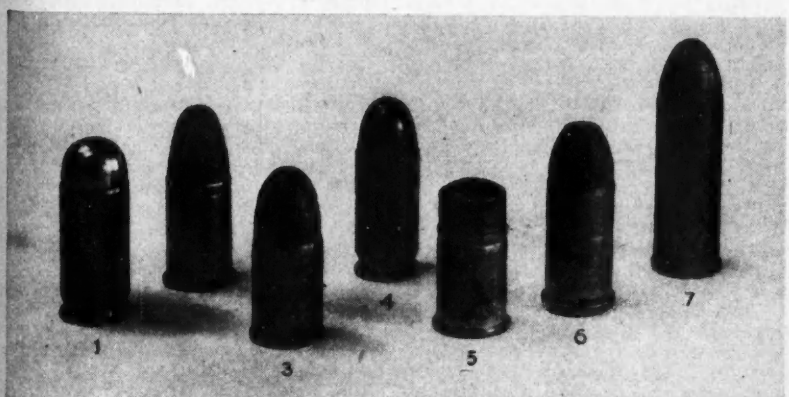
The .455 caliber Self-Loading cartridge will not fit our M1911 .45 Pistol because the overall length is too great and the rim is too large, being about .500 inch as compared to .471 inch for the M1911 automatic cartridge. Our .45 M1911 bullet is slightly heavier (234 grains) and the muzzle velocity is higher (820 feet per second) than the British cartridge.

The .45 caliber M1911 automatic cartridge will of course function in the Colt and S. & W. M1917 revolvers by making use of a clip to retain the rimless head. The use of a clip is inconvenient and after World War I the ammunition companies produced the caliber .45 Auto Rim cartridge for use in the M1917 revolvers. The ballistics of the Auto Rim cartridge are approximately the same as those of the M1911 service round but the Auto Rim is commercially loaded to a muzzle velocity of about forty feet per second lower.

When discussing the .45 caliber, we cannot sign off without mentioning the .45 caliber Colt which made history in the West as the old Peacemaker. This was a rimmed, black-powder cartridge loaded with a 255 grain bullet to a muzzle velocity of about 800 feet per second. The .455 Mark II ammunition can be fired in the .45 Colt Revolver but the rim is thin and there may be occasional misfires. The .45 caliber Colt was used by the U. S. Army but was abandoned in 1892 in favor of the .38 Long Colt, which in turn was replaced by the .45 Colt New Service revolver in 1909. The present .45 automatic came into the picture in 1911.

At the beginning of World War II, the British services were using the Webley .455 Mark VI revolver chambered for rimmed, Mark II ammunition, but they subsequently standardized on the British Enfield .380 Pistol (Revolver) No. 2, Mark I. The .380 rimmed cartridge, having a bullet weighing 200 grains and muzzle velocity of 600 feet per second, is said by the British to be comparable to the .455 for man-stopping qualities. The .380 caliber service ammunition now in use by the British is jacketed, as is our own .38 Special ammunition for service issue. The British also use a Smith & Wesson .38 Pistol No. 2 chambered for this same cartridge.

British .380 pistol ammunition in England is known as the .38 Webley and Scott Special. The .38 caliber S. & W. (146 grain), the .38 caliber Colt New Police (150 grain) or the .38 caliber S. & W. Super Police (200 grain) will function in the British revolvers.—E. B.



A few members of the .45 caliber family: (1) .455 Webley Self-loading pistol; (2) .455 Webley Mark II; (3) .450 Revolver; (4) .45 ACP; (5) .450 Revolver (blunt); (6) .45 Auto-rim; (7) .45 Colt.

THE WRONG AMMO.

"Enclosed is a photograph of a .25-35 Winchester cartridge case which was fired in a .25 caliber (6.5 mm.) Jap Arisaka rifle. The shooter who fired the rifle escaped injury. I thought that a picture of what happens when a stunt like this is pulled would be of interest."—J. H. M.

Answer: Thanks very much for your letter and photograph of the .25-35 cartridge. The person doing the firing certainly was fortunate. There is, in this particular case, a reason for his being so fortunate. The .25-35 is not a high-powered cartridge. Obturation was obtained even though the .25-35 cartridge case is much smaller than the Jap 6.5 mm. case. Another fortunate thing is the fact that the .25-35 bullet is only .257 inch in diameter while that used in the Jap rifle is .264. This condition, of course, was also responsible for the pressure being low.

Had the case let go near the rim there would have been a different story. In spite of the fortunate circumstances involved in this incident it is still a good example of why a shooter should know his ammunition.—A. H. B.

NEW STOCK FINISH

There are several methods of finishing a gun stock but practically all of them require at least a small shop and a few tools to do a good job. Even with limited facilities I found that the new Master Gunstock Finish made and sold by Stolba Gun Repair Service, 1606 3rd Street, S.W., Cedar Rapids, Iowa, gave a very satisfactory finish to three stocks I worked over. The whole job of filling and finishing with two applications on each stock was complete in less than twelve hours.

Of course, no finishing material will sandpaper the stock for you and the final appearance depends greatly on how well the surface was prepared in advance. Smooth up the surface satisfactorily, lift the grain several times, and Master Gunstock Finish will do you a good job.—F. L. W.

CORRECTION

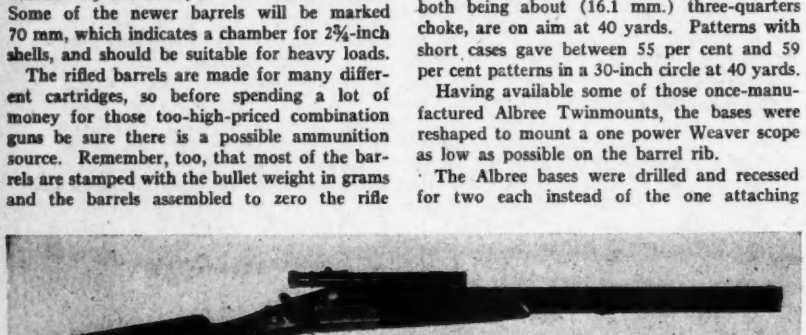
The Magnus Chemical Company, Garwood, New Jersey, invites our attention to a mistake in the May Dope Bag on page 45 under "Cleaning Solution." We referred to "Magnus 775." It should be Magnus 755.

THREE-BARREL COMBINATION

We have received many letters describing the various two-, three-, and even four-barreled rifle and shotgun combinations brought back from Germany. The information requested usually concerns ammunition for use in the rifled barrel. Practically every one of these guns is an individual proposition.

Most of the shotgun barrels are 16 gauge with the amount of choke indicated in millimeters on the underside of the barrels. The older guns do not bear the nitro or smokeless powder proof marks. Many are made to handle only the short, 65 mm. standard loads. Some of the newer barrels will be marked 70 mm, which indicates a chamber for 2¾-inch shells, and should be suitable for heavy loads.

The rifled barrels are made for many different cartridges, so before spending a lot of money for those too-high-priced combination guns be sure there is a possible ammunition source. Remember, too, that most of the barrels are stamped with the bullet weight in grams and the barrels assembled to zero the rifle



Al Barr's three-barreled rifle-shotgun combination

cartridge to make a practical combination when using the shotgun barrels. For any caliber make a sulphur cast of the chamber and part of the bore to learn the size of cartridge and bullet diameter. Instructions for making these casts appeared in the April, 1946 Dope Bag.

Before obtaining the three-barreled job illustrated I checked up to see what American cartridge might be used, chamber length for the shotgun shells, and diameter of bullets to be used for reloading. The markings on the rifle barrel are "St. M.G.", meaning it was made for steel jacketed bullets. The caliber was indicated as 7.8x57 mm. This case is, of course, a rimmed one. The groove diameter is .323 inch or just right for standard 8 mm. or .32 Winchester Special bullets. The date of manufacture "8.36" means it was made in August, 1936. The shotgun chambers were checked and found long enough for the 2¾-inch shells, although no markings such as 70 mm. were indicated. Also the former owner had fired modern 7.92 mm. rimless ammunition (not to be recommended) in the rifle barrels, so the gun has been *proof fired!*

The chamber measurement indicated a maximum diameter of .464 inch and the nearest rimmed case I could find was the .30-40 Krag, measuring .457 inch near the rim. Light test loads, after thinning down the rim and reducing diameter to fit the rim seat, showed an expansion of .007 inch. This variation looks objectionable, but will do no harm so long as sensible loads are used. The case necks must be expanded and length trimmed about 2 mm. The .303 British case can also be used, but it is slightly shorter than 57 mm. The fired case necks measure .351 inch and are then sized down to .347 inch in lapped out .30-40 reloading dies to hold the 8 mm. bullet.

With the 170-grain Speer or 175-grain W.T.C.W. 8 mm. bullets the best load was 36.5 grains HiVel No. 2, while the groups were enlarged when using 38 grains. The groups averaged 2 inches at 50 yards, 3.62 inches at 100 yards and one *freak* group of four shots in 3.00 inches at 200 yards. The impacts were: 2 inches high at 50 yards, 1.25 inches low at 100 yards and 13.25 inches low at 200 yards. With the same sight setting the shotgun barrels, both being about (16.1 mm.) three-quarters choke, are on aim at 40 yards. Patterns with short cases gave between 55 per cent and 59 per cent patterns in a 30-inch circle at 40 yards.

Having available some of those once-manufactured Albree Twinmounts, the bases were reshaped to mount a one power Weaver scope as low as possible on the barrel rib.

The Albree bases were drilled and recessed for two each instead of the one attaching screw and that was a wise choice. The rib was found to be hollow with only ⅛-inch thickness and the four screws are needed to take the recoil developed by the 16 gauge and 8 mm. ammunition. Note in the illustration how low the scope is mounted. It provides a practical sight for both shotgun and short-range rifle shooting. This is a nice shooting outfit, weighing only seven pounds with scope attached.

The only way to check on velocity and pressure of the 7.8 mm. load is by comparing ballistics with the slightly smaller capacity .30-40 Krag case where a charge of 36.2 grains of HiVel No. 2 with the 172-grain bullet develops 2460 f.s. velocity at 42,000 pounds per square inch pressure. That could mean at least 2350 f.s. velocity in the 7.8 mm. cartridge at a safe pressure level.

One other practical combination can be considered for reloading the 7x57 mm. Again the .303 British or .30-40 Krag cases can be used. We necked then down in an Ideal tong tool made for the 7x57 mm. rimless. With this combination the thicker-walled Western or Winchester cases are needed; otherwise the neck-sized cases will not hold the bullets.

There are many questions about the long 9.3x72 mm. case. To date we have found no available substitute cartridge or case. The groove diameter is .364 to .366 inch. Other cartridges commonly used for which there is a possible solution are the 5.6x35R, 5.6x52R and 6.5x52R. The nearest cartridges we have are the .22 Hornet, .22 Savage Hi-Power and the .25-35 Winchester.—A. H. B.

MORE ABOUT BARREL OBSTRUCTIONS

"Your dope on removing obstructions from rifles with blank loads is interesting (Dope Bag, May, 1946, Page 42). I like the logical way you explain how an obstruction checks the bullet and how the sidewise application of pressure due to dynamic energy causes a bulge or rupture of the barrel.

"When I was a boy I cast some lead slugs that apparently were a loose fit in the muzzle of a double-barrel, muzzle-loading shotgun. After loading each barrel with black powder well wadded with newspaper, I dropped a slug into each barrel. These slugs were loose enough for the first few inches but stuck fast about six inches from the muzzle. I decided to shoot them out with the blank loads already in the gun. I had sense enough to use a long fishing line. When each barrel was fired a large ring bulge was formed at the point where the slug had been located. The recoil was so great that the stock was broken in half.

"Another time I had the muzzle of a breech-loading gun split wide open due to mere trace of loose snow in the muzzle that I thought could cause no harm. The fact that blank loads will only ring-bulge the thin barrel of a shotgun would seem to prove that, as you say, little or no damage would result from shooting obstructions out of a thick-wall rifle barrel.

"Pressure, however, plays some queer pranks. A few years ago I made a rifled 16 gauge choke tube designed to handle round lead balls cast in an Ideal 16 gauge .648 diameter mold. These balls gave good accuracy and the spent balls showed no deformation when recovered, except the rifling marks. I loaded some small balls of .635 inch diameter and fired them through the rifled tube designed for the .648 balls. To my surprise the pressure in some way expanded these small balls so that they filled the grooves of the rifling.

"When these small balls were fired from a smoothbore choke tube, this expansion did not take place. We know that hollow-base rifled slugs expand in the choke, but a solid round ball being blown up in diameter needs some explaining.

"When I get time I am going to shoot some of these small balls into waste and send them to you as the thing is hard to believe unless you see it."—NORMAN POWELL, Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania.

Answer: Many thanks for writing of your experiences with obstructions in shotguns. I believe that what caused the bulge in the barrel of your gun was the heavy wad of newspaper that you had on top of the powder. This would act to some extent like a bullet or charge of shot, with a tendency to wedge when it came in contact with the stationary obstruction. You showed very good judgment in firing the gun from a distance by use of a string. This is always good practice when in doubt.

I fully agree with you that pressure plays queer pranks and acts in unaccountable ways. Probably the reason your .635 round ball expanded was because the wad under the ball, in effect, struck it a blow when the gun was discharged and the inertia of the fairly heavy lead ball was sufficient to cause it to smash just the same as though it was dropped from

a distance onto a solid object. This would be especially likely if the ball were cast out of pure lead, which is very soft.

One of the most fascinating things about gun experiments of any kind is that we are always learning something new.—J. S. H.

PROTECTIVE COATING PRODUCTS

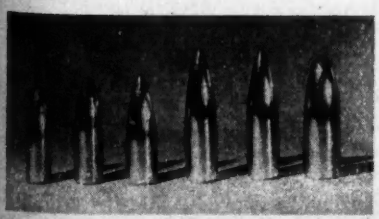
A variety of products came in from Protective Coatings, Inc. (see their ad in this issue), covering a rather wide field. We are told that all Micronoil products such as Gun-Lube, a rust preventative, Reelube, a thin lubricant, and Lethrflex, a waterproofing and leather softener, are electrically treated by a unique and secret process. Other products are Superba Blu-Blak, a blueing preparation with a temperature range of 260 to 300 degrees F., and Chrome-Tone, a water-clear rust protector for chrome-plated surfaces. For the outdoorsman there is lanolin based Mas-q-Lin for skin protection and Skeeter-Skatter, a money back guaranteed product to repel mosquitoes for a period of four hours or black flies for one hour.

Our severe rust test with Gun-Lube and Reelube indicated good protection for light oils. There was complete protection for the first six to nine days, and rust progressed slowly for a thirty-day period. Under average conditions these products have proved to be very satisfactory. In the same test Lethrflex (not a thin liquid), even as a preservative against rust, was better, going 105 days before the first rust appeared. There was only one small etched spot after 127 days on test. We have found Lethrflex to be a very good waterproofing and leather softener.

"Rust Proof" does everything claimed for it and really more too. Rust removal is slow by the "wet" process, but very rapid when the rusted parts are dipped in the water-thin solution. Of course, there still are pits in the steel that only polishing will remove. Don't use this material on blued guns as it will remove blueing.—A. H. B.

SPEER BULLETS

Those Speer bullets mentioned in the May Trade Dope have been used in several different calibers. When Speer was getting into production he sent us a few for trial in .25 and .30 caliber. The 150-grain .30-caliber open point (no longer listed) did very well at 2870 f.s. velocity using 51.0 grains duPont No. 3031 and F.A. 70 primers. The maximum load of 53 grains at 3000 f.s. did not group as well.



Left to right, here is what these Speer bullets are: .25 caliber, 87 and 100 grain; .270 caliber, 100 grain and 130 grain; 7 mm., 139 grain; and the 8 mm., 170 grain.

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For Civilian & Sportswear

MEN'S raincoats, new, U.S.N. gabardine 34-42 $6.50
MISSES' sweaters, turtleneck, N. Blue, all wool 3.95
BLANKETS, all wool, 70x80, O.D. like new.. 6.75
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PEEP SIGHTS
for KRAG RIFLES—$1.50. For Enfield $1.50. Spring Adjustable Barrel Bands 60¢. Krag Barrel Receiver Fillets 65¢. Springfield Sporter Butt Plates 60¢. Grip Caps 35¢. Satisfaction or money refunded.

LEROY RICE 316 Masonic Temple Elyria, Ohio

MILLER BEDFORD at New London, Ohio—where the unusually rare gun is commonplace. Our stock is amazing.

In one .25-caliber Magnum rifle, one of the earlier lots of these bullets did as well as any other bullets of 100 grains weight, which this rifle seems to prefer. These bullets apparently are designed to stand quite high velocity. We estimate the velocity, according to trajectory tests, to be at least 3500 and possibly 3600 f.s.—A. H. B.

CORRECTION

In the June issue, under "German Military Conversion," E.B. stated that the Hungarian Model 35M has a rotating platform magazine. This is incorrect. The Model 35M has a box, "in-line" type magazine, which takes a clip.

TRADE DOPE

Franklin Forge Craftsmen, 212 Chester Road, Swarthmore, Pa., is a postwar project owned and run by veterans. It makes all types of name plates including initial and name insignia for all sorts of sporting equipment including guns as well as for automobiles, boats, luggage, etc.

* * *

Dewitt Tool Company, 173 Grand Street, New York 13, N. Y., has sent us one of its "Bargain Bulletins." This Bulletin includes prices. The items listed include self-centering and independent chucks, reamers, milling cutters, high speed saws, etc.

* * *

Lyman A. McCrea, once known for his interest in developing high-velocity wildcat cartridges, is now in charge of the Firearms Department of Al's Sport Shop, Vallejo, Calif. The work of developing new cartridges started by McCrea has been turned over to the Orahood Gunshop, Ordway, Colorado. Mc-

HEAD SPACE GAGES

.22 Caliber GO and NO-GO gages for target shooters. Nicely cased. $5.00 a set.

GUNSMITH SPECIAL
FIVE .22 CALIBER GAGES
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Complete with holder, $12.50

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SET OF 3 GAGES, $20

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The famous G & H patented double lever scope mount was used exclusively by the Army for Garand sniper's rifles. A positive locking, lightweight, low mount—quickly and easily detached!

In stock now are Weaver 330, 440, K2.5, K4 and Lyman Alaskan Scopes with G & H mounts for all popular rifles. Other G & H mounts and scopes will be soon available.

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WEAVER K2.5 SCOPES

Standard scope, with cross hair	$34.50
Lee Center Dot—Extra	8.00
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Stith mount for 99 Savage	15.00
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Special low bridge mounts, custom fitted to your rifle	12.00

No mounting charge, if I furnish scope and mount.
Now in stock, for immediate shipment, prepaid.
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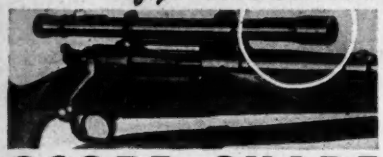
You can't Hit 'em
if you can't See 'em!



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You get all-weather use of your scope with a Scope-Shade, as it protects the objective lens of your scope from sun, rain and snow.

Made of finest blued steel, a Scope-Shade improves the looks of your gun. Very easy to install. Absolutely no reduction in your field of vision. If not satisfied with Scope-Shade your money cheerfully refunded.

Scope-Shade is made in sizes to fit all scopes. All ¾" scopes, such as Weaver 330 and 440 . . . **$1.50** Lyman Alaskan and Weaver K 2.5, $1.75. All others, custom made $2.00. Sent postpaid with complete instructions. If your store cannot supply you, send check or money order direct to manufacturer.

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"THE MARK OF OPTICAL EXCELLENCE"

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Quick Detachable
TELESCOPE MOUNT

U. S. patent No. 2396404 will be fully described in the *Rifleman* as soon as production will permit.

This mount was engineered, tested, and proven by a family of riflemen who have mounted thousands of scopes with all types of mounts. This is worth waiting for.

WILLIAMS' GUN SHOP
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GUN BLUING $1.50 8 oz.
Quick Method Bluing Solution
Not a paint! OXIDIZES METAL! Hot water solution. Easily, quickly applied. Will put a blue on your gun that will last for years. Nothing else like it on market. Complete directions with each bottle. Express Pre-Paid.
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MILLER BEDFORD, New London, O.,
For RARE OLD guns will pay nice dough.

WANTED Jap and Nazi Relics, Rifles, Pistols, Uniforms, Medals, Cartridges, Helmets, Bayonets, Swords. Also Antique and Modern Guns. One piece or a collection.
THE BELLPORT GUN SHOP, Bellport, N.Y., Dept. K.

Crea informs us that the Orahood brothers make excellent reamers and that they are experienced in high-velocity cartridge development.

* * *

The Firm of **Hammer & Gibson** of Palos Park, Ill., is being dissolved as Mr. Hammer is moving out of the Chicago area. Mr. Gibson writes that he will complete all work on hand with as little delay as possible. He further states that Mr. Hammer will continue to make rifle barrels only as a hobby. Mr. Gibson will continue in the custom rifle business as V. Gibson, Riflesmith, P. O. Box 62, Worth, Ill.

* * *

Al Freeland Sport Center, 3737 Fourteenth Ave., Rock Island, Illinois, had a grand opening in April. Al has long been an advertiser in the AMERICAN RIFLEMAN, where he has listed a great variety of shooters' supplies. In his new sports center he has added other sporting items to his stock, such as golf clubs, tennis rackets, fishing tackle, etc. Mrs. Freeland, as well as Martha, Helen, and Ted, daughters and son, are also active in the business.

* * *

C. G. Moffat is ready now to open his gunshop at 6540 Riverton Ave., North Hollywood, Calif. He was formerly shop foreman for Roy Weatherby. Moffat will use Ackley-made reamers and preturned barrels, ground to final size between centers. Resizing dies will be made by Fred T. Huntington. Moffat plans to give good service, but will do no stock work.

* * *

The Drybak Corporation is again making shooting coats. Style 3347 is to retail at approximately $9.50. The coat made of about medium-weight Duck Cloth is furnished with large well-placed shoulder and elbow pads. These are made of a lighter weight leather and are not as heavily padded as most of the other coats which we have used. We have one of these coats and it will be given a thorough trial during the next few weeks.

* * *

Mr. O. Buehner, 5603 Hudson Avenue, West New York, N. J., has sent in a sample of a handy gadget he is placing on the market under the name of Timberscrew. It consists of a large pointed screw with a holder on the end adjusted to hold the head of a spotting scope stand such as the B. & L. or Freeland. To use it, the screw is driven into a post, tree or any other available wood surface, using the holder end as a handle to give the necessary leverage. The stem of the scope stand is then dropped through the 5/8-inch hole and clamped in position. This is particularly useful for nature study or for pistol shooting, where any tree will provide a suitable support.

* * *

C. A. Hill, Dixon, Illinois, who makes those neat Hill Steel-Ring Mounts, can furnish them now for the 7/8-inch tube diameter scopes such as the Alaskan, and the one-inch diameter tube of the new K2.5 Weaver. Mounts with special bases are available for the Winchester M-54 and for Springfields in two types, one for actions with the bolt altered for low scope mounting, and another for the 330, and K2.5 Weaver or Lyman Alaskan to be mounted ahead of the bolt handles. Both have a recoil shoulder on the front of the mount base. This type mount is also used on pump and autoloading shotguns.

* * *

Excellent quality stop watches are again available for the timing of rifle and pistol matches. Quantities are still limited, but the **Bell Watch Company,** Time and Life Building. Rockefeller Center, New York 20, N. Y., has a few of the popular start, stop, and re-set type for immediate delivery. Complete descriptive circular "SU" will be sent upon request.

* * *

Burgess Vibro-Tool sent in by Frank Mittermeier is certainly a handy gadget to have around the workshop. It is useful for marking tools, even hard steel, when the Tantalum Carbide point (V3) is used. There are other engraving needles for use on plastic, glass, etc. A complete set of accessories would include a knife attachment for cutting thin, soft material. Special cutters for wood carving, and hammering tips for leather or thin, soft metal tooling are included. There is no limit to the number of small jobs this tool can be used for. The cartridge collector will find that the Vibro-Tool is especially useful in marking cartridges for identification.

* * *

Mr. John Burns, gunsmith of 770 Alter Street, Hazleton, Pa., is putting out an abrasive barrel polishing compound for use on muslin polishing wheels for finishing metal surfaces prior to blueing, etc. The material comes in four grades, coarse, medium, fine, and superfine, and is put up in soft metal tubes with a humidor cap to prevent it from drying out.

* * *

Roy Gradle, another well known gunsmith, is again doing business at his old address: 205 W. Islay Street, Santa Barbara, California. In addition to making "Ideal" triggers for the Model-52 Winchester and Model-37 Remington rifles, Gradle specializes in the construction, restoration and repair of target, varmint and hunting rifles. He also makes custom scope mounts and does custom stocking, as well as rechambering for some of the most popular wildcat cartridges, using those famous Red Elliott reamers.

THE ARMS CHEST

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS APPLICABLE TO CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

1. Transactions Based on Good Faith: ARMS CHEST transactions are based on good faith and mutual satisfaction. Deliberate misrepresentation, disregard of usual business ethics or the attempt to circumvent these general requirements, when brought to our attention, will result in refusal of further advertising and might result in dirbarment from the NRA in the case of members.

2. All Orders Subject to These Conditions: WE reserve the right to edit all copy to conform with our standards and to reject or discontinue any advertisement which we consider undesirable.

3. Who May Advertise: The ARMS CHEST is an open market trading post. Any individual or firm whose advertisement and methods of doing business meet our requirements may advertise their goods or services.

4. Rates: All advertisements must be accompanied by remittance. The rate is 15 cents per word including name and address—minimum charge $2.00.

5. Definite Prices Must Be Stated: A specific price must be stated on all items offered in FOR SALE and SELL or TRADE ads—except that the phrase "write for catalog" may be used when listing merchandise in quantities.

6. Blind Ads Not Acceptable: Box number or blind ads will not be accepted. Give your complete name and address, to insure prompt delivery of all mail or telegraph replies.

7. Firearms for Sale or Trade Must Be Defined: The *condition* of every gun (including essential parts) advertised for sale or trade, *must* be specified according to *NRA standards*, as follows: PERFECT—meaning factory condition; EXCELLENT—meaning new condition, implying negligible amount of use; VERY GOOD—meaning practically new condition, implying little use, with no appreciable bore wear and only minor surface scratches or wear; GOOD—meaning moderate use with some finish worn off, only moderate bore wear, with no pits and nothing worse than a little roughness in the bore; FAIR—meaning no parts missing necessary to use of gun, reasonable wear inside and out, nothing worse than minor pits in steel or stock, gun sufficiently accurate for hunting. POOR—meaning marred appearance and pitted or badly worn bore.

8. Non-Specific Phrases Barred: Phrases such as "highest" or "top prices paid," as well as any other so-called "auction-type" phrases are not acceptable. The terms "fair price paid" or "state price wanted" may be used.

9. "Outlawed" Firearms Defined: The sale of certain firearms is outlawed by Federal law unless handled by a Federally licensed dealer. These include machine or submachine guns; sawed-off rifles and shotguns with barrels of less than 18" and Mauser and Luger auto pistols *with holster stocks*.

10. Requesting Privilege of Examination: We *insist* that purchasers desirous of examining merchandise before acceptance request shipment by express C.O.D. with examination privilege. This procedure permits the purchaser to inspect the merchandise *in local express office* and authorizes the express company to return unsatisfactory merchandise at shipper's expense.

11. How to Count Numerals, Etc.: Groups of figures are counted as one word (example: .30-30, 250-3000, $150.00, $1.50). Abbreviations consisting of initials or single characters likewise are counted as one word (example: W. H. Smith; H. B., meaning heavy barrel; HP., meaning highpower). Hyphenated words are counted as two words (examples: 20-gauge, pearl-handled, no-slip).

12. Responsibility for Illegible Copy: Type or print advertisements plainly, as we can not be responsible for errors due to illegible writing.

13. Closing Date: All advertisements must be *received* by not later than the 5th of the month preceding date of issue. (Example: the 5th of July for the August issue. Ads *received* after the 5th of July, *and not later than the 5th of August* will be inserted in the September issue.)

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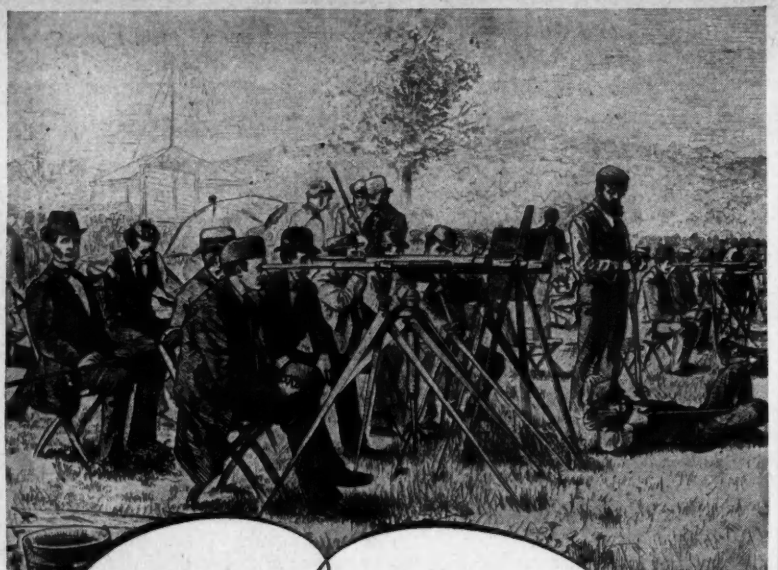

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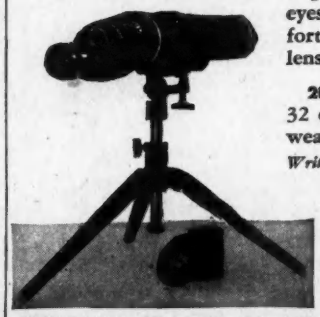

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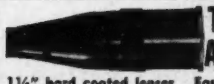

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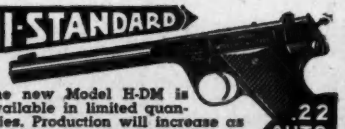

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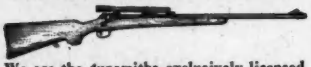

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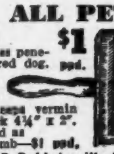

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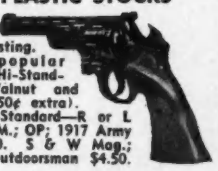

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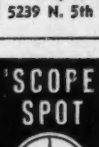

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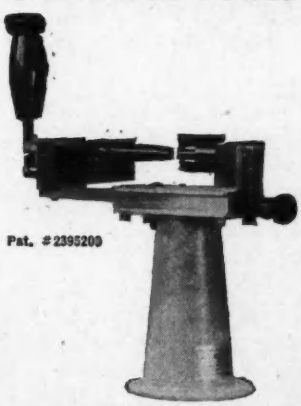

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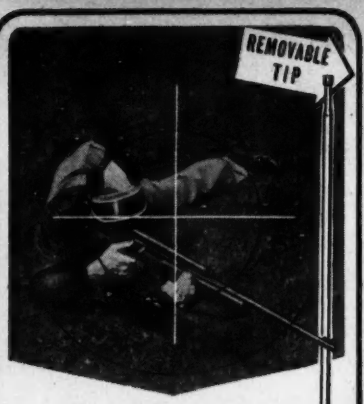

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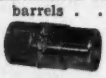

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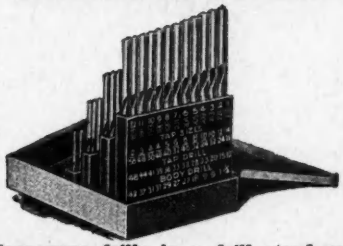

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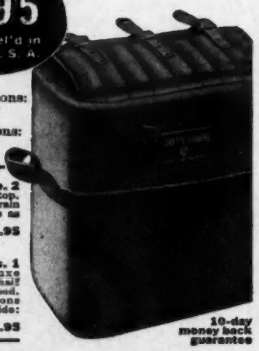

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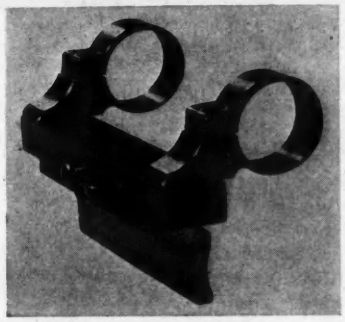

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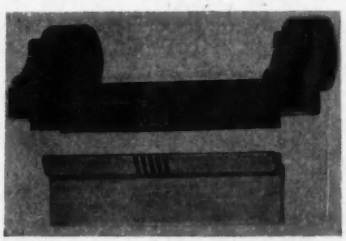

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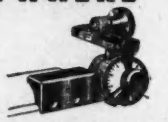

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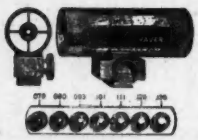

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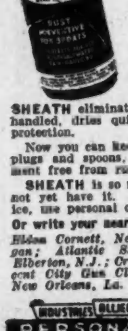

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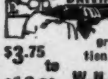

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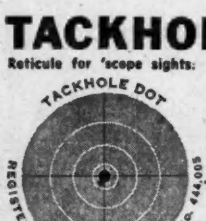

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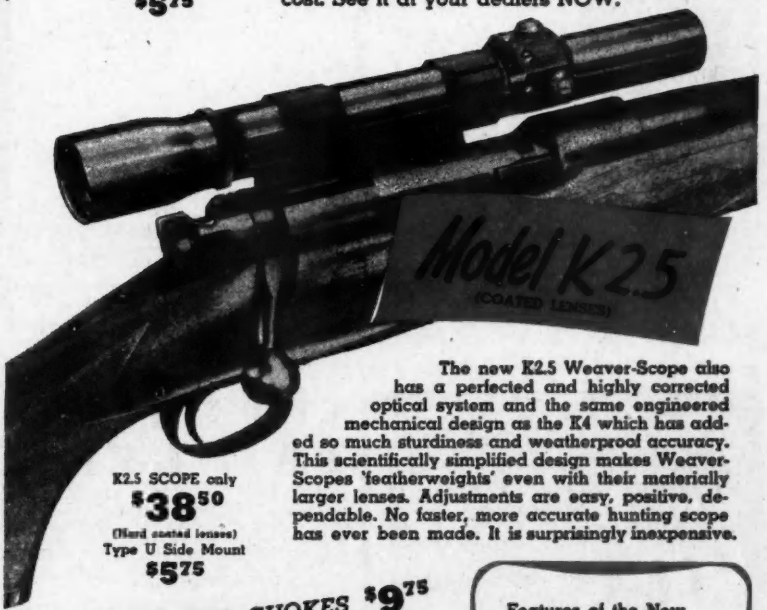

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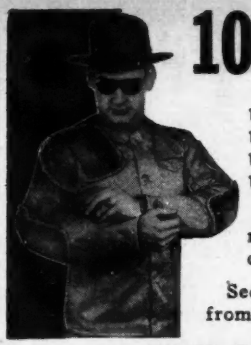

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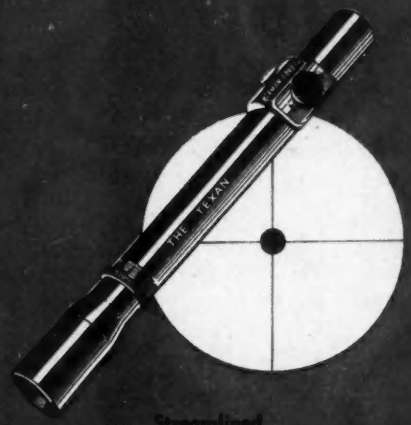

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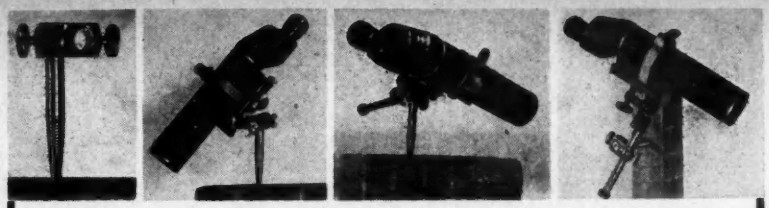

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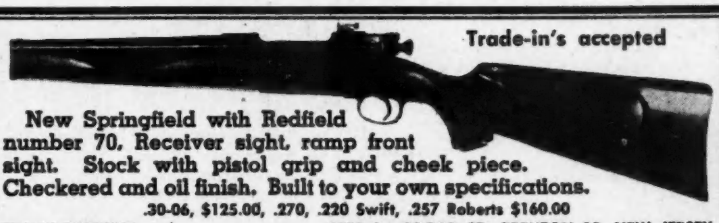

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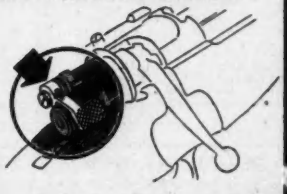

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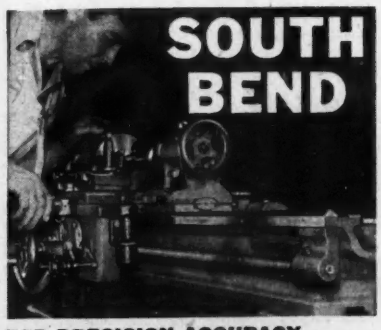

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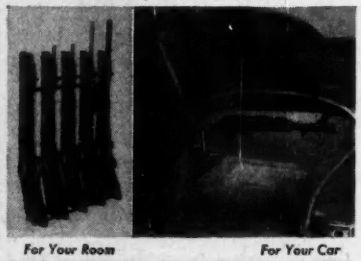

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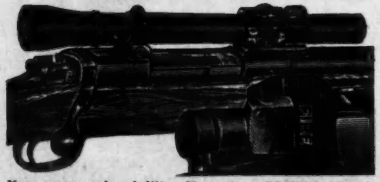

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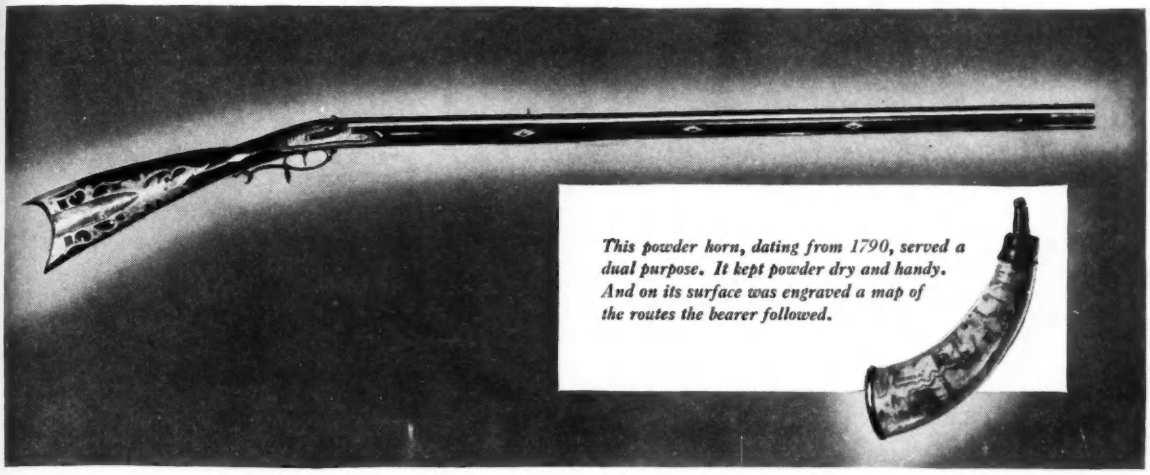
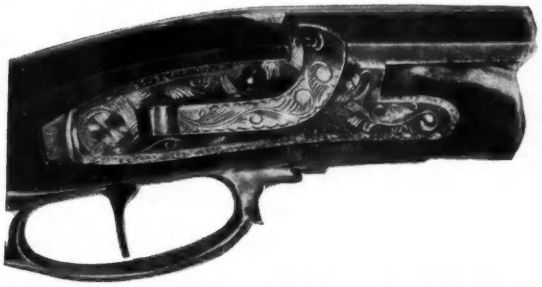


This powder horn, dating from 1790, served a dual purpose. It kept powder dry and handy. And on its surface was engraved a map of the routes the bearer followed.

Early American MULE EAR "KENTUCKY" PILLOCK



Early in the 19th century, many American sportsmen adopted the Mule Ear "Kentucky" Pillock as their favorite rifle. This gun was a transition between the flintlock and the percussion rifles. A mixture of fulminate in the form of a small pill was inserted in an opening under the "mule ear" or side-hammer. When struck, it ignited the muzzle load. The pillock above is from the Philip Medicus collection. Stock and fore-end were turned from walnut rather than the usual curly maple. The rifle is 56" long, barrel 41", bore .38 rifled. And the gun shows 17 brass and silver inlays.

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World-Famous Since 1802

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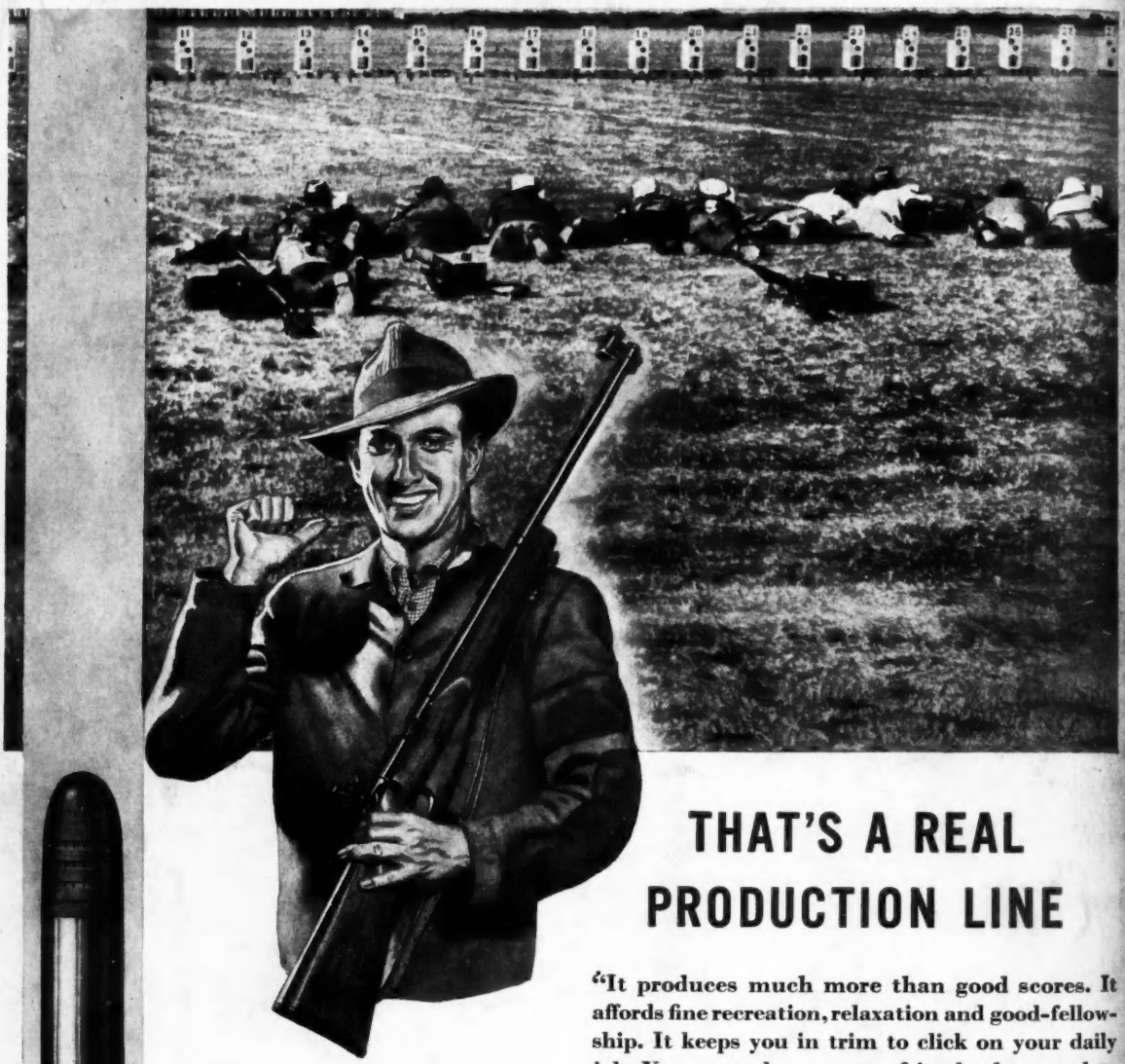

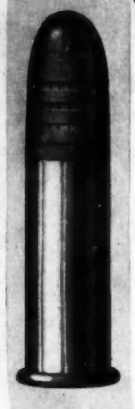

PREFERRED BY EXPERTS

FOR THE RIFLE: Choose a Winchester Model 52 and you'll have the world's finest target rifle. For match competition, target shooters who demand the utmost in accuracy acknowledge the supremacy of the 52.

THAT'S A REAL PRODUCTION LINE

"It produces much more than good scores. It affords fine recreation, relaxation and good-fellowship. It keeps you in trim to click on your daily job. You must know some friends that need to limber up and brush away the cobwebs. Why not interest them in small bore rifle shooting?"

Do your friends another good turn. Tell them what you know about ammunition—that, while Western Super-Match Mark II 22's are preferred by experts, beginners can rely upon the accuracy of Western Xpert 22's until they, too, qualify as expert marksmen. Western Cartridge Company, East Alton, Illinois, Division of Olin Industries, Inc.

HELP... SALVAGE LEAD

Clean out your "backstops" and *sell the scrap lead to your local scrap metal dealer.* That will help everybody because today, supplies of lead are so short that cartridge production must be curtailed.

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